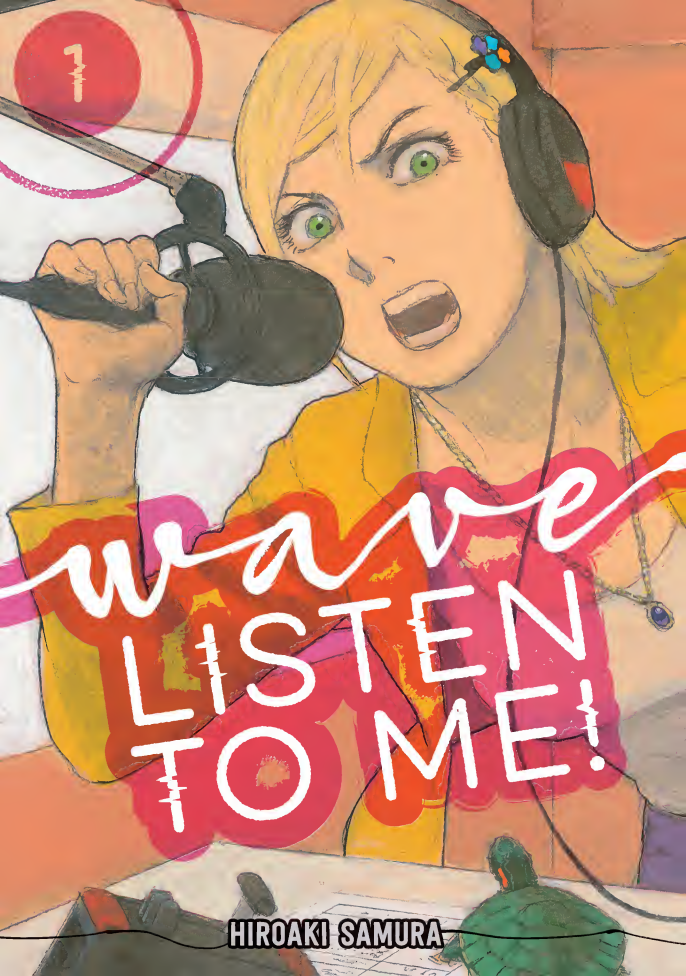




1

wave LISTEN TO ME!

HIROAKI SAMURA

LISTEN
TO ME!

murder



HIROAKI

SAMURA

Chapter 1 ♥ [I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!] 003

Chapter 2 ♥ [I WANT YOU.] 035

Chapter 3 ♥ [I DESPISE THEM.] 057

Chapter 4 ♥ [I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.] 081

Chapter 5 ♥ [YOU GUYS ARE SO LAX.] 103

Chapter 6 ♥ [I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.] 125

Chapter 7 ♥ [YOU WON'T GO HOME.] 147

Chapter 8 ♥ [YOU WON'T SMILE.] 169

BUT I MAKE
THE BIGGEST
FUSS ON THE
FIFTH DAY.

ASIDE FROM
THE DEATH OF
MY PARENTS,
I'M CONFIDENT
THAT I CAN
OVERCOME
ANY TRAGEDY
IN FIVE DAYS.

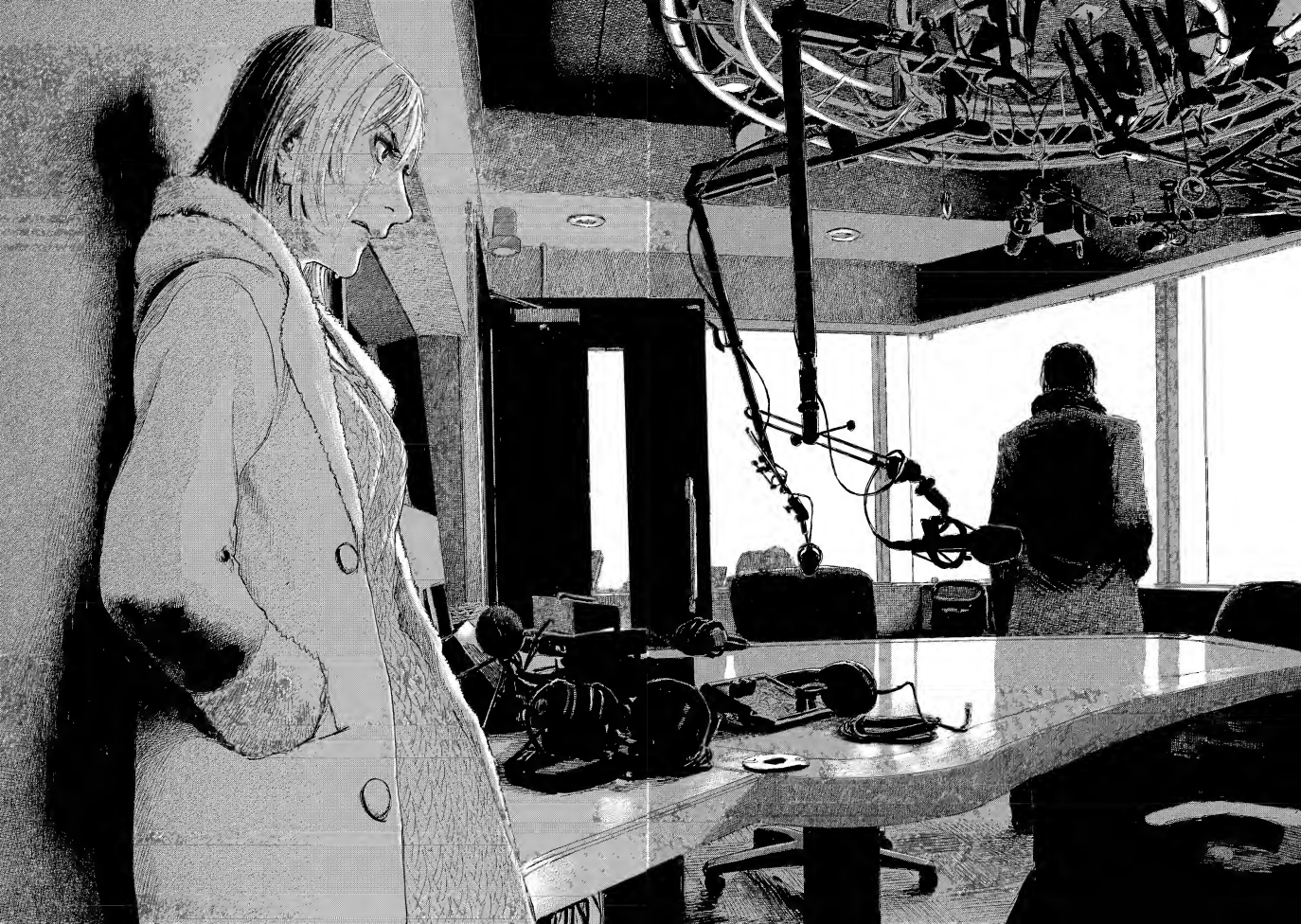


MAAAAN,
IT'S ROUGH
BREAKING UP
WITH YOUR
BOYFRIEND
PAST 25.

THE
GRAVITY
OF THE
SITUATION
IS WAY DIFFER-
ENT.

DO YOU
EVEN GET
WHAT I'M
SAYING,
MATO-
SAN?!

UHH...
YEAH, I
HEAR YA.



THIS IS KANE-
TSUGU
MATO-
SAN.

WE
JUST MET
ABOUT 40
MINUTES
AGO.

I'M
BETTING
53!

WHY
DON'T I
GUESS
HOW OLD
YOU ARE,
MATO-
SAN?

NOPE,
49.

where
did you
get that
numbers

SHE JUST
TURNED SINGLE
AND YOU'RE
ALREADY PICKING
HER UP? YOU
SURE ARE FAST
WITH THE LADIES,
KANE-CHAN.

ARE YOU
BEING SERI-
OUS RIGHT
NOW?

WHAT A
YOUNG-
STER!

YOUR
EYEBROWS
LOOK JUST
LIKE MY
DAD'S, SO
I FIGURED
YOU WERE
THE SAME
AGE.

FOR
REAL?!

MAN, I AL-
MOST HATED
YOUR GUTS
THERE FOR
A SECOND,
MATO-SAN.

YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
QUELL MY
ANGER BY
GIVING ME
THAT CHICK-
EN WING.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN EXTOR-
TION TACTICS
LIKE THAT
BEFORE.

OH,
YEAH?
ME,
TOO.

Y'KNOW,
MITSUO...
OH, MY EX
I MEAN...

HE WAS
FROM
FUKUOKA.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?! ONO HAS THE MOST HOME RUNS IN THE LEAGUE RIGHT NOW!

THAT PRICK HAD THE NERVE TO TELL ME, "COMPARED TO THE GIRLS BACK HOME, IF I HAD TO PUT YOUR LOOKS IN BASEBALL TERMS, YOUR FACE IS ON ONO'S LEVEL."

sub?
oh, from
the sun
light here,
right?

THERE ARE A LOT OF CUTE GIRLS IN FUKUOKA, RIGHT?!

did you
used to
be an
idol?

WHY
DO YOU
KNOW SO
MUCH
ABOUT
IDOLS?

ON THE FLIP
SIDE, YOU
SHOULD
REMEMBER
CELEBRITIES
FROM YOUR
OWN HOME
TOWN.

THROUGH
WORK.

TRUE. MIWA
YOSHIDA, YUKI
AND MIHO YABE
ARE ALL FROM
HOKKAIDO.

HIKARU
UTADA'S
MOM,
TOO.

I THINK
HOKKAIDO
HAS ITS FAIR
SHARE OF
BEAUTIES.

I THINK
THE LOCALISM
THAT POPS UP
IN RELATIONSHIPS
IS A PAIN IN THE
ASS.

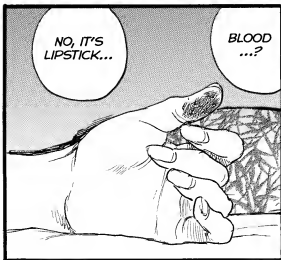
MATO-SAN,
CAN I BE REAL
WITH YOU FOR
A SEC?

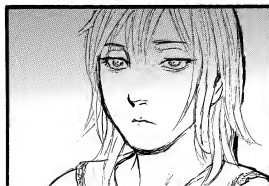
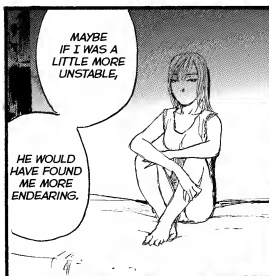
I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION
FROM THAT POINT ON.

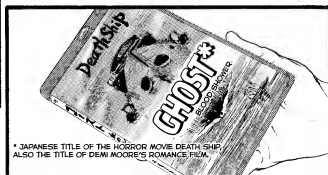
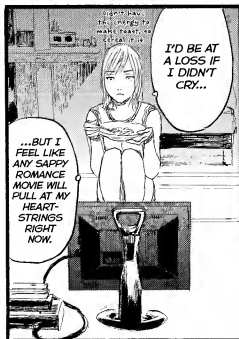
* THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.

NO, IT'S
LIPSTICK...

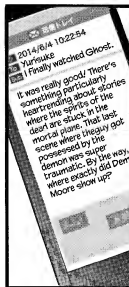
BLOOD
...?







* JAPANESE TITLE OF THE HORROR MOVIE DEATH SHIP, ALSO THE TITLE OF DEMI MOORE'S ROMANCE FILM.



AHHH! THANK GOD I CRIED!

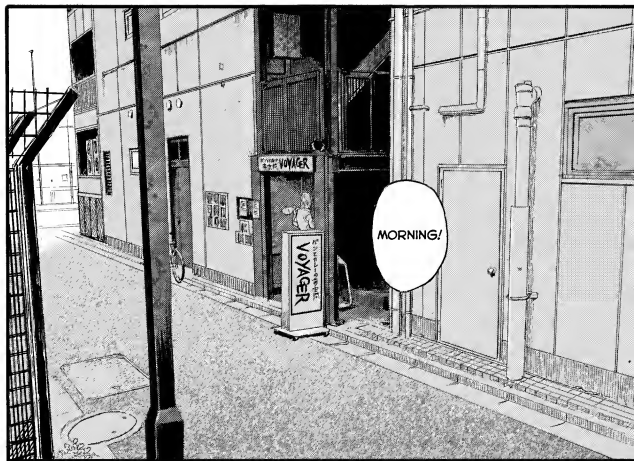


NONCHALANT
け34

...BACK TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

ALL RIGHT! NOW THAT MY TEARS ARE ALL DRIED UP...





TARDINESS
DURING
HEARTBREAK
DOESN'T
COUNT.

WAS IT
BRIOCHE
TODAY?

DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
CRAP!

WHATEVER!
HURRY AND
UPDATE
THE BLOG,
WILL YOU?

PLETYON-
KA AND
PÃO DE
QUEIJO!



ANY-
THING
TO
SAY?

AS OF
TODAY,
THAT
MAKES
TWO
STRIKES.

I TOLD
YOU THAT
IF YOU'RE
LATE THREE
TIMES IN
ONE MONTH,
YOU'RE
FIRED.

June 4

Good morning!
Tis the season for soup curry!
I guess I say that every three months,
though. (˘-˘) The bread of the day at
VOYAGER is, the Russian Pletyonka and,
the Brazilian Pão de Queijo!
Pletyonka is also called "oraid bread," and
is a funky bread made by braiding three
rolls of dough.

**On the Happy-Bread index,
it gets five stars! ★★★★★**

Pretty high, don't you think?
If you eat this pletyonka and go after
that special someone you've had your
eye on, I'm sure you'll be rewarded.
Pão de Queijo means "cheese bread,"
and is delicious.



HEY! I'M
BACK FROM
THE SUMMER
FESTIVAL MEETING.

HOW WAS
IT?

WE GOT
THE SAME
SPOT AS
LAST YEAR.

SHOVE IT
UP YOUR
ASS!

LIKE I GIVE A
DAMN ABOUT
YOUR GUYS'
HAPPINESS!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
HAPPY-
BREAD
INDEX?



WA-HA-
HA.

HE WAS A
CHARMINGLY
SHADY MUST-
TACHED MAN
FROM THE
MEDIA.

OH, NOT TO
MEN-
TION...



THAT
GLORIOUS
MUSTACHE
OF HIS...

SHUT UP...
I THINK HE
GAVE ME HIS
CARD.

YOU BARELY
REMEMBER,
DO YOU?



IT ALL
WORKED
OUT IN THE
END.

I ENJOYED
THE COMPANY
OF A MIDDLE-
AGED
GENTLEMAN,
INSTEAD.

HUH
?!

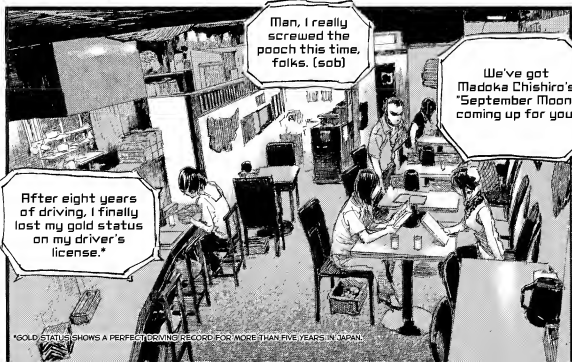
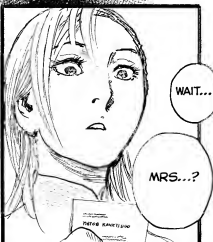
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT KINDA
DUDE WAS
HE?



SORRY I
COULDN'T
GO DRINK-
ING WITH
YOU LAST
NIGHT.

OH...HEY,
MINARE-
SAN.





*GOLD STATUS SHOWS A PERFECT DRIVING RECORD FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS IN JAPAN.



PÃO DE QUEIJO. IT'S A BRAZILIAN BREAD

THERE'S CHEESE INSIDE. WHAT'S THIS BREAD CALLED?

MMM! THIS BREAD IS GREAT!

Let's pick up the mood with our first song of the day, shall we?



THERE AREN'T MANY RESTAURANTS THAT HAVE SUCH A VARIETY OF BREAD TO GO WITH SOUP CURRY.

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME COMING HERE?

OH! YEAH.

THE OWNER'S SCHEME OF GETTING RID OF THE ASIAN IMAGE MOST CURRY SHOPS HAVE IN ORDER TO BRING IN MORE FEMALE CUSTOMERS WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE.

SAPPORO IS A COMPETITIVE MARKET FOR CURRY, AFTER ALL.



TELL THEM IT'S
A DREAMLAND
OF BREAD AND
CURRY!

I TOLD YOU TO
STOP SAYING
THINGS LIKE
COMPETITIVE
MARKET AND
SCHEME TO THE
CUSTOMERS!

I WAS
HOOKED
ON JOSHI-
ANA NO
BATSU.*

SORRY.
I JUST LOVE
THE VARIETY
SHOW VIBE.

DREAMS!

* A JAPANESE VARIETY SHOW WHERE FEMALE TV HOSTS ARE SUBJECT TO PRANKS AND PUNISHMENT GAMES.



That was Liz Phair's
"White Chocolate
Space egg."

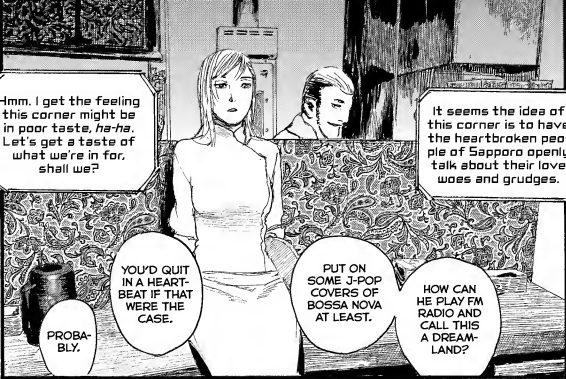
I THINK A
VARIETY
SHOW VIBE
WOULD FLOW
BETTER,
ANYWAY.

WE LIVE IN AN
AGE WHERE
PEOPLE'S
SUPERFICIAL
BULLSHIT IS
EXPOSED ON
THE INTERNET.

HA-HA-
HA...

Next up we have our
special feature that
was announced last
week!

"Street Corner Lost
Love"... This lame name
is only temporary, right,
director?



Hmm. I get the feeling
this corner might be
in poor taste, *ha-ha*.
Let's get a taste of
what we're in for,
shall we?

It seems the idea of
this corner is to have
the heartbroken people
of Sapporo openly
talk about their love
woes and grudges.

PROBABLY.

YOU'D QUIT
IN A HEART-
BEAT IF THAT
WERE THE
CASE.

PUT ON
SOME J-POP
COVERS OF
BOSSA NOVA
AT LEAST.

HOW CAN
HE PLAY FM
RADIO AND
CALL THIS
A DREAM-
LAND?



HA-HA.

"Can I be real with
you for a sec? I
think the localism
that pops up in
relationships is a
pain in the ass."



HUH.
DOESN'T
THIS
VOICE...

...KINDA
SOUND
LIKE
YOU...

"...first born
sons from the
Kyushu region
are the worst!"

"I probably
shouldn't
say this to
someone
from
Fukuoka..."



...
MINARE-
SAN?

"They all just
want to be pam-
pered princes!"

"They're so
selfish! It's
ridiculous!"





"...but as someone who's dated a guy from there, they definitely expect to rule the roost."

"Y'know, I heard that there are way more girls than guys in Fukuoka..."

...?

...



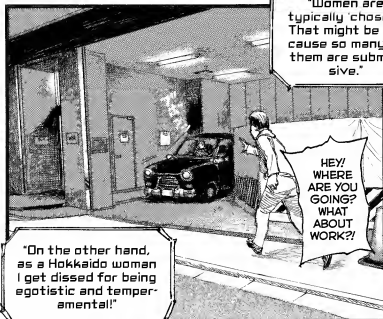
"I gotta say, Mato-san must be the nicest person in the world to put up with my grumbling. For real."

Well, I don't think everyone from Fukuoka is like that.

BAM



"Anyway, I think that attitude stems from having the confidence of being 'someone who chooses.'"



"Women are typically 'chosen.' That might be because so many of them are submissive."

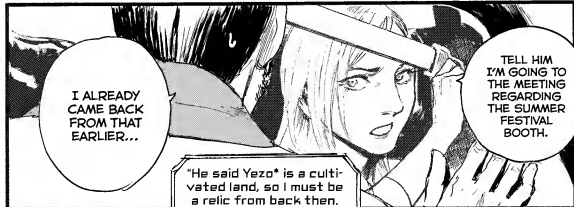
HEY!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?
WHAT
ABOUT
WORK?!

"On the other hand, as a Hokkaido woman I get dissed for being egotistic and temperamental!"



MINARE-SAN!

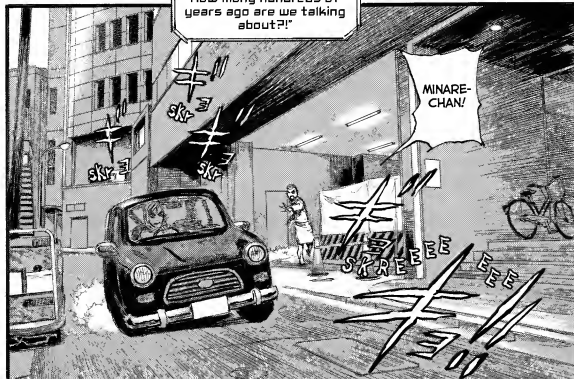
* YEZO, NORTHERN JAPAN IN THE MEIJI ERA INCLUDING HOKKAIDO, SAKHALIN AND THE KURIL ISLANDS.



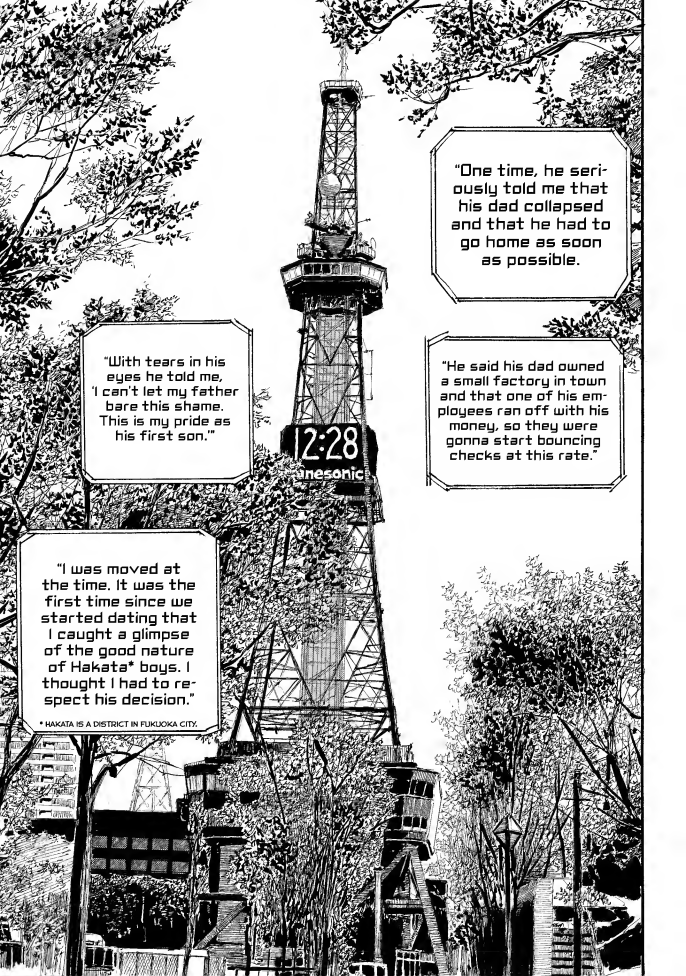
I ALREADY
CAME BACK
FROM THAT
EARLIER...

TELL HIM
I'M GOING TO
THE MEETING
REGARDING
THE SUMMER
FESTIVAL
BOOTH.

"He said Yezo* is a cultivated land, so I must be a relic from back then. How many hundreds of years ago are we talking about?!"



MINARE-CHAN!



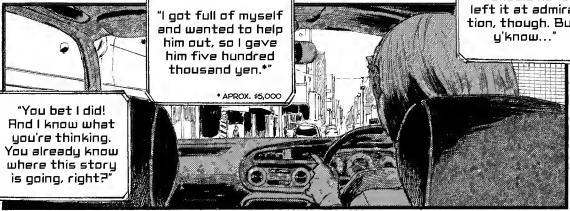
"With tears in his eyes he told me, 'I can't let my father bare this shame. This is my pride as his first son.'"

"One time, he seriously told me that his dad collapsed and that he had to go home as soon as possible."

"He said his dad owned a small factory in town and that one of his employees ran off with his money, so they were gonna start bouncing checks at this rate."

"I was moved at the time. It was the first time since we started dating that I caught a glimpse of the good nature of Hakata* boys. I thought I had to respect his decision."

* HAKATA IS A DISTRICT IN FUKUOKA CITY.

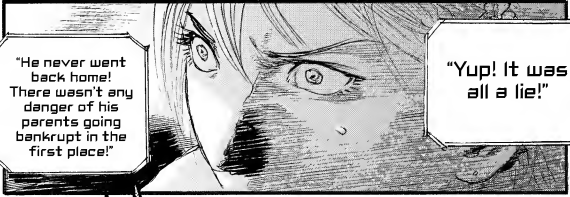


"I got full of myself
and wanted to help
him out, so I gave
him five hundred
thousand yen.*"

* APPROX. \$5,000

"I should have
left it at admira-
tion, though. But,
y'know..."

"You bet I did!
And I know what
you're thinking.
You already know
where this story
is going, right?"



"He never went
back home!
There wasn't any
danger of his
parents going
bankrupt in the
first place!"

"Yup! It was
all a lie!"



"Go to
hell!"

"I hope
you die!"



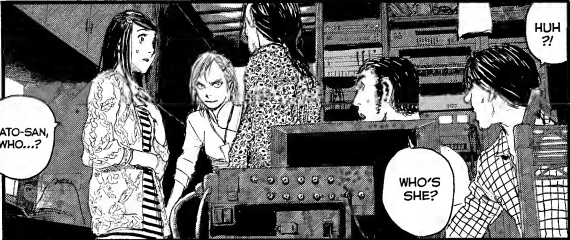
LOOK
WHO'S
HERE.

OH?





"And just yesterday, a friend of mine told me she saw him around town with another girl just after we started dating. It's like, why didn't you tell me sooner?!"



MATO-SAN, WHO...?

WHO'S SHE?

HUH ?!



BAM!

"Beats me. He probably used the money to move, don't you think?"



CLACK

CLACK





"I'm fed up with mainland-ers! I'm definitely gonna date a Hokkaidoan next time! I'll take beer over shochu* any day!"

THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN OVER AND OVER, SO LISTEN UP.

SEE HOW IT'S TURNED OFF RIGHT NOW? FLIP THAT ON AND YOUR VOICE WILL BE BROADCAST OVER THE AIR.

THAT BOX WITH THE LEVER IN FRONT OF YOU IS CALLED A COUGH SWITCH.

* SHOCHU: A VARIETY OF SPIRITS MADE FROM RICE WITH STRONG TIES TO THE KYUSHU REGION.

WHEN IT LIGHTS UP, YOU HAVE A SECOND TO SLIP THE SWITCH AND START TALKING.

THE THING THAT LOOKS LIKE ANNIN TOFU* ON TOP IS THE CUE LAMP.

WE'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO TURN IT ON AND OFF, JUST KEEP YOUR EYES FORWARD.

* ANNIN TOFU: A JELLIED DESERT MADE OF APRICOT KERNAL, AGAR AND SUGAR THAT RESEMBLES TOFU IN LOOKS.

HUH...? SURE!

GOOD CALL! I APPRECIATE IT.

START TALKING WHEN I PAT YOUR BACK, OKAY?

I'LL MAN THE COUGH BOX, MATO-SAN.



THE BOY-
FRIEND WHO
DUPED AND
DUMPED
YOU...

MISS...



GIVE IT
TO 'EM.

...AS WELL AS
YOUR FUTURE
BOYFRIEND
COULD BE
LISTENING.

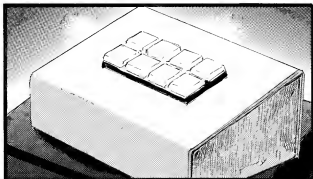


MINARE KODA
ONLY REALIZED
AFTER THE
FACT...

AH!

UMM...

EVERY-
ONE!



OKAY!

FLICK
CUE

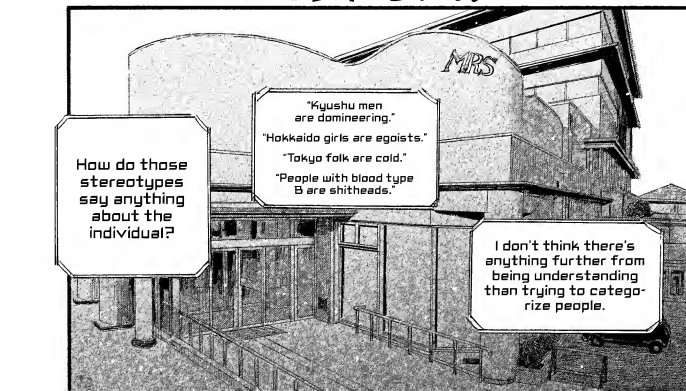


...BUT
SHE'S
MISTAKEN,
TOO!

I DON'T
MEAN TO
SPEAK
POORLY
OF ANYONE
FROM
FUKUOKA!

JUST NOW
YOU HEARD
SOME DRUNKEN
IDIOT BABBLE
ON AND ON...

"WAS I
SET UP?!"



How do those
stereotypes
say anything
about the
individual?

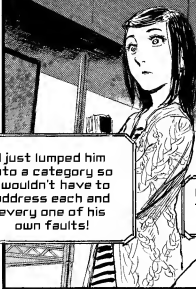
"Kyushu men
are domineering."

"Hokkaido girls are egoists."

"Tokyo folk are cold."

"People with blood type
B are shitheads."

I don't think there's
anything further from
being understanding
than trying to categorize
people.



I just lumped him into a category so I wouldn't have to address each and every one of his own faults!



It was easier to think that way.



I chalked up his self-righteousness as an inevitable byproduct of our patriarchal society.



Could there be an emptier relationship?!



As a result, he practically robbed me and fell off the face of the earth.



And I bet he probably did the same thing to me.



Oh, and one more thing before I go.



...to avoid understanding the individual.



No matter where my next boyfriend is from, I vow never to use my stupid preconceived notions as an excuse...



AH, YOUTH ...

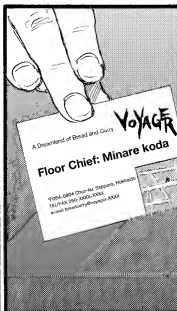
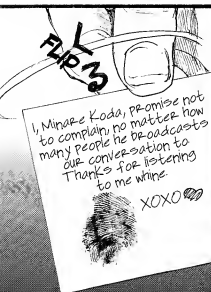


Mitsuo!

Even if you run
to the edge of
the planet, I will
hunt you down
and *kill* you!

TO SEND OFF
OUR GUEST,
HERE'S YUMI
MATSUTOYA'S
"EVEN IF YOU
LEAVE."

PHEW, NOW
THAT WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE. I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD TO
NEXT WEEK'S
SEGMENT.





Chapter 2 IT WANT YOU!



WOULD
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
EVEN HOLD
IN COURT?



I, Minako Koda, promise not
to complain, no matter how
many people he broadcasts
our conversation to.
Thanks for listening
to me whine.
XOXO



PEOPLE
FROM THE TV
BIZ SURE ARE
HEARTLESS.

WHAT A
MONSTER.

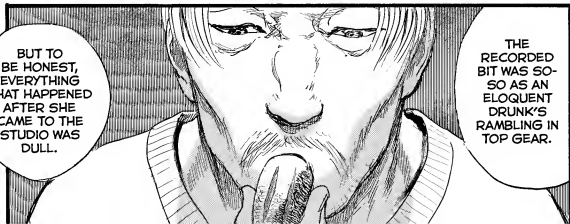
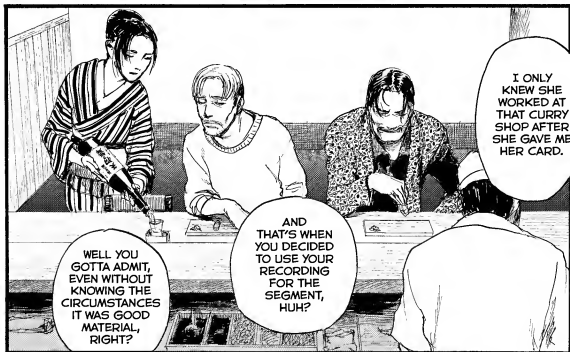
WELL,
IT DOESN'T
MATTER AS
LONG AS
THE DUMMY
TAKES THE
BLUFF.

IT'D BECOME
EVIDENCE, AT
LEAST.



I WOULDN'T
SAY IT WAS
PLANNED, BUT
I HAD A HUNCH
SHE'D SHOW
UP.

WAS HER
BARGING INTO
THE STUDIO
PART OF YOUR
PLANS, TOO?





DUMBASS...
I'M TELLING
YOU NOT TO
LET HER IN
THE STUDIO
AGAIN.

SOUNDS
LIKE HIGH
PRAISE TO
ME.

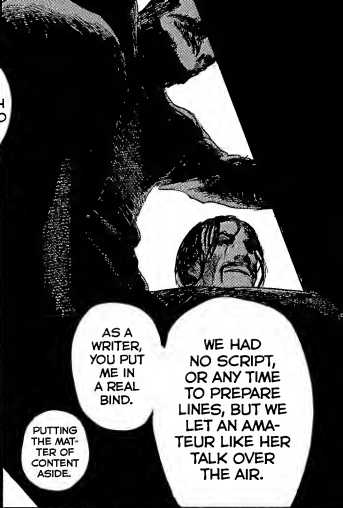


I PLAN TO
VISIT HER
STORE
AGAIN
SOON, LIKE
I PROM-
ISED.

WELL,
AT ANY
RATE,

IT
SOUNDS
LIKE THEY
REALLY
LIKED THE
SEGMENT.

TAKE
CHISHIRO
AND NANBA
WITH YOU
WHEN YOU
DO.



AS A
WRITER,
YOU PUT
ME IN
A REAL
BIND.

PUTTING
THE MAT-
TER OF
CONTENT
ASIDE.

WE HAD
NO SCRIPT,
OR ANY TIME
TO PREPARE
LINES, BUT WE
LET AN AMA-
TEUR LIKE HER
TALK OVER
THE AIR.



I JUST
HOPE THE
GIRL DIDN'T
END UP FIRED
AND IN TEARS
AFTER THAT.

HE-HE-
HE...



ON ONE
CONDITION.



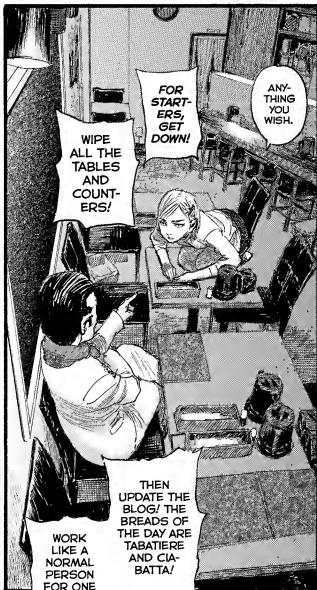
June 5

Oh, boy, it's supposed to reach over 30 Celsius today!
The sun is going to kill me at this rate.
How are you all beating the heat?
We at VOYAGER are doing our best not to melt in the kitchen. (lol)
Well, then. While I wrote that last bit, a fresh batch of bread just got out of the oven!
The breads of the day are the French tabatiere and the Italian ciabatta!
Tabatiere is made by taking a ball of the same dough used to make baguettes and folding it over itself when baking. It's very crispy and absolutely to die for.
On the Happy-Bread index, it gets four stars! ★★★★★
That's like going out to get groceries for dinner only to have it rain tomorrow.

* SANMA: PACIFIC SAURY

LIKE COMMENT

LIKES | COMMENTS (35)



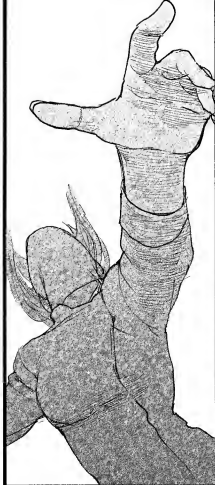
WIPE ALL THE
TABLES AND
COUNTERS!

FOR
START-
ERS,
GET
DOWN!

ANY-
THING
YOU
WISH.

THEN
UPDATE THE
BLOG! THE
BREADS OF
THE DAY ARE
TABATIÈRE
AND CIA-
BATTÀ!

WORK
LIKE A
NORMAL
PERSON
FOR ONE
DAY, WILL
YOU?



like Koda-san...
Must be my imagination (^-^)

SOREYU (REPLY)

2 Koda-san

I listened to September blue moon!
That was Koda-san talking, right?
It was a good segment.
It'll be embarrassing if I'm mistaken. (/~*)

ZOMBEER

3 Moiwayama Radio

The lady on the radio yesterday sounded just
like one of the girls working at Voyager.
Was that really her? The way they speak was
similar, too, so I was curious.

OLD HERMIT

4 No Subject

Don't diss Fukuoka.

MIKA-DNA

5 Minare-san

You were on Madoka Chishiro's show
yesterday, right?
It was awesome! Sounds like you went
through a lot...

WHY CAN'T
YOU STAY
COMPLIANT
FOR EVEN
AN HOUR?!

FORGET
ABOUT THAT!
YOUR LIFE IS
IN MY HANDS
UNTIL THE
END OF THE
SUMMER
FESTIVAL,
GOT IT?!

HEY, CHIEF.
IS IT OKAY
IF I MAKE
AN AVATAR
OF MY
FACE?

PEOPLE
DON'T
USUALLY
REMEMBER
WAITRESSES'
VOICES
OR NAMES,
RIGHT?

WHAT'S
WITH THE
CUSTOMERS
HERE?!

AAAAHHH!
HOLD UP!
HOOOLD
UP!

...I'M
SOME-
THING OF
A SYMBOL
HERE?

Y'KNOW,
I NEVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT
BEFORE, BUT
COULD IT
BE...



I SUGGEST
YOU FIND A
NEW PLACE
TO WORK
BEFORE
THEN.

THEN...
DOES
THAT
MEAN...?



THAT GUY
ONLY
THINKS
ABOUT
WHAT'S
BEST FOR
HIMSELF!

NOT TO
SAY I
DON'T,
BUT...

CAN YOU
REALLY
BLAME
HIM?

IS
THERE
NO COM-
PASSION
LEFT
IN THE
WORLD?



HUH?

I HAVE TO
MANAGE
THE STORE
AND THE
FOOD STALL
DURING THE
FESTIVAL,
AFTER ALL.

I'M
GONNA
NEED
MORE HELP
AROUND
HERE THAN
JUST NAKA-
HARA-KUN.



I DON'T
THINK IT MAT-
TERS WHAT
BEER TASTES
LIKE IN THIS
CASE...

BEER
TASTES LIKE
RUST WHEN
YOU'RE UN-
EMPLOYED,
Y'KNOW.

THINK
ABOUT IT:
RIGHT AFTER
THE MARYAMA
SUMMER FESTI-
VAL IS THE BEER
FESTIVAL
IN ODORI
PARK.



IT'S GONNA
BE HARD FOR
ME IF YOU
LEAVE.



LET'S THINK
OF A WAY TO
KEEP YOU
FROM GETTING
FIRED, SHALL
WE?

APPARENTLY,
EVER SINCE
THIS STORE
OPENED...

I
HEARD
FROM
THE
CHIEF
LAST
YEAR.

HAS A STALL
AT THE
MARIYAMA
SUMMER
FESTIVAL?

NAKAHARA-KUN,
DO YOU KNOW
WHY A STORE
IN SUSUKINO*
LIKE US,

I DON'T
SEE HOW
THAT HAS
ANYTHING TO
DO WITH
WHAT WE
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT...

I SHOULD
CALL THE
INSURANCE
COMPANY.

I'M THE
ONE WHO
MAKES
THE
CURRY!

...BUT
SERI-
OUSLY?!

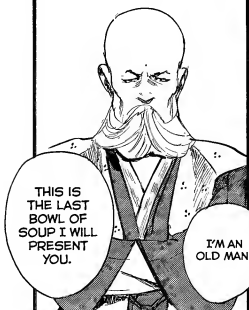
...HE'S
BEEN BUILD-
ING ON THE
SAME CURRY
BASE.

UHH...I
GUESS
I NEVER
REALLY
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT.

HUH?!

* A RED-LIGHT DISTRICT IN CENTRAL SAPPORO PACKED WITH STORES AND RESTAURANTS.



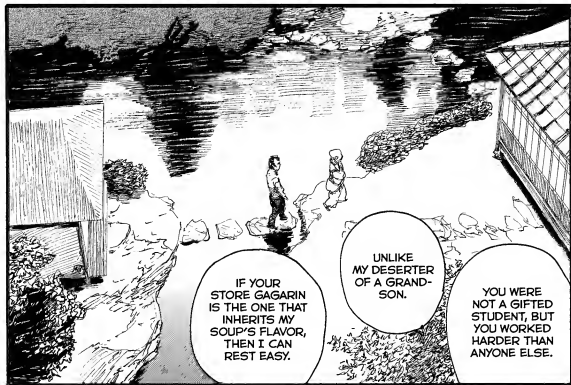


THIS IS
THE LAST
BOWL OF
SOUP I WILL
PRESENT
YOU.

I'M AN
OLD MAN.



I BOW
TO YOUR
EXPERTISE.



IF YOUR
STORE GAGARIN
IS THE ONE THAT
INHERITS MY
SOUP'S FLAVOR,
THEN I CAN
REST EASY.

UNLIKE
MY DESERTER
OF A GRAND-
SON.

YOU WERE
NOT A GIFTED
STUDENT, BUT
YOU WORKED
HARDER THAN
ANYONE ELSE.



GAGARIN
WILL HAVE
A BOOTH
THERE.

IF OUR
SIGN
MAKES IT
ON TV...

THE
MARUYAMA
SUMMER
FESTIVAL
BEGINS IN
JULY.



MASTER...



...THEN
PERHAPS
HE WILL BE
COMPELLED
TO RETURN!

...AND IF
BY CHANCE,
YOUR GRAND-
SON SEES IT...

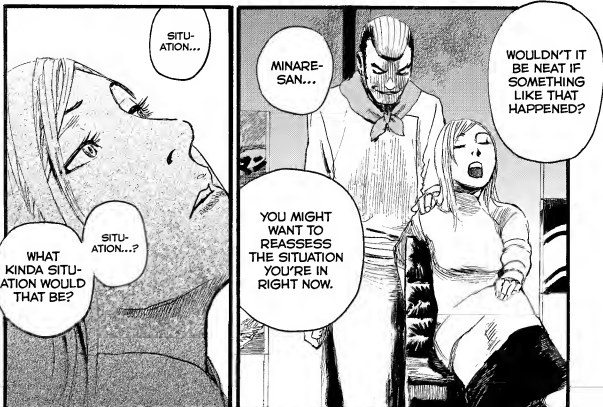


THE ONE
YOU TRULY
WANT TO IN-
HERIT YOUR
SOUP IS...

I AM NOT SO
IGNORANT
THAT I CAN-
NOT READ
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS.

MASTER.

TAKARADA,
WHAT ARE
YOU...-



SITU-
ATION...

MINARE-
SAN...

WOULDN'T IT
BE NEAT IF
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
HAPPENED?

WHAT
KINDA SITU-
ATION WOULD
THAT BE?

SITU-
ATION...?

YOU MIGHT
WANT TO
REASSESS
THE SITUATION
YOU'RE IN
RIGHT NOW.



I MIGHT
HAVE THE
WRONG
PERSON, BUT
I COULD'VE
SWORN IT
WAS YOU.

PARDON?

YOU
WERE ON
MOIWAYAMA
RADIO
YESTERDAY,
RIGHT?



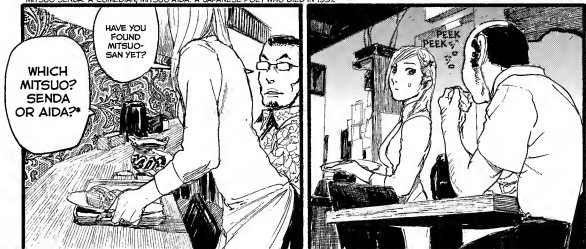
...THAT
CUSTOMER
WAS HERE
WHEN YOU
RAN OUT OF
THE STORE.

IT IS,
BUT MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY...

WHAT
THE
HELL?!

IS MY
VOICE
THAT
UNIQUE
OR SOME-
THING?

* MITSUO SENDA: A COMEDIAN, MITSUO AIDA: A JAPANESE POET WHO DIED IN 1991.



WHICH
MITSUO?
SENDA
OR AIDA?*

HAVE YOU
FOUND
MITSUO-
SAN YET?



PEEK
PEEK



THIS COMMENT CAN ONLY BE SEEN BY ADMINISTRATORS.

I'll wait until you come crying.

41 No Subject

Mato here. Thanks for coming in yesterday.

By the way, did you know about this video?

<http://www.mytube.com/watch?v=kgddj-mr85>

MY TUBE



Waitress runs out of the store after hearing her own voice on the radio.

Related Videos



Ghost voice plays over the radio. (Shonan)



Beautiful Indian store clerk with sleeveage.



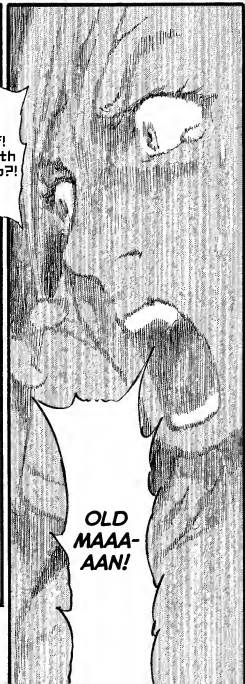
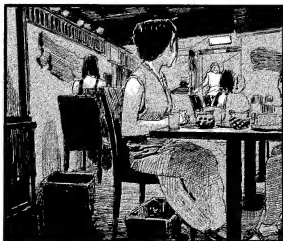
I made a Radio Aerobics 7 track to dance to.



Radio explodes in THAT country.



Beautiful





PUBLICITY RIGHTS? I TOLD YOU, IT WASN'T ME.

HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR END? YEAH? THAT'S GOOD.

WE GOT A NUMBER OF CALLS ABOUT THAT BROADCAST.



HUH?!

BEEP

THAT'S A LITTLE...

DON'T COME UNTIL THE SUMMER FESTIVAL IS OVER?



WAIT, ARE YOU EVEN WORKING TONIGHT?

I'LL HEAD OVER THERE TONIGHT SO WE CAN SORT SOME THINGS OUT.

THAT'S RIGHT, TO APOLOGIZE.

YOU WANT MIZU MANJU* FROM KASHIN**? YEAH, SURE.

YOU'RE PRETTY STINGY.

* MIZU MANJU: A JAPANESE CONFECTIONERY WITH TRANSLUCENT DOUGH AND SWEET BEAN FILLING. ** KASHIN: A HIGH-END CONFECTION SHOP IN SAPPORO.



YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE TALKING TO YOUR DAUGHTER.



HEE-HEE.

THAT'S OVER A MONTH AWAY.



HE-HE-
HE.

KUREKO
WOULD
WRING MY
NECK IF I
DID THAT.



ARE YOU
GOING TO
HAVE HER
TAKE MY
PLACE?



YEAH,
YEAH.

MY
DAUGH-
TER'S A
LOT MORE
HONEST
THAN
HER.



...WANT TO
HAVE THAT
VOICE OF
HERS IN
RESERVE.

I JUST...

NO WORRIES.
AT THIS POINT,
SHE'S STILL
JUST AN AMA-
TEUR WHO CAN
TALK WITHOUT
STUTTERING.



YOU HAVE A
GENTLE VIBRATO
THAT COMES FROM
DEEP BREATHING.
THE IDEAL
REASSURING
WHISPER.

THE GENERAL
LISTENERS
WANT TO HEAR
SOMEONE WITH
A PERSONALITY
AND VOICE LIKE
YOURS.



WHEREAS
MINARE KODA IS
THE EXACT OPPO-
SITE. HER VOICE IS
HIGH AND MAKES
PEOPLE UNEASY, AN
AGITATING VOICE
WITH A SOMEWHAT
ARROGANT RING.

I JUST
WANT TO
TEST FOR
MYSELF...

WHAT I FOUND
INTRIGUING WAS
THAT IT WASN'T
UNPLEASANT TO
LISTEN TO. IT FELT
LIKE I WAS WAIT-
ING TO HEAR MY
FAVORITE FEMALE
CELEBRITY'S NEXT
UTTERANCE.



...IF I WAS
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
FELT THAT
WAY.

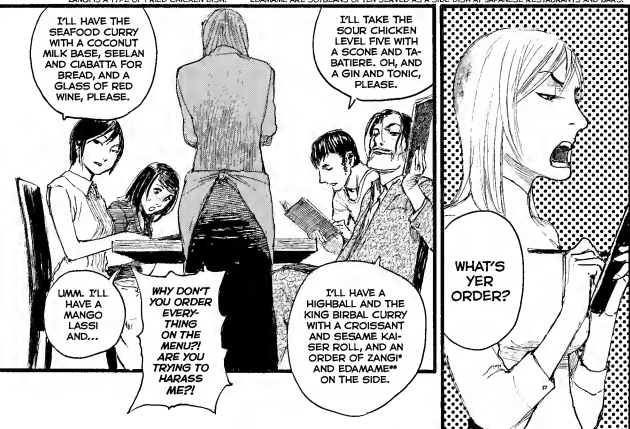
I TOLD YOU
NOT TO
COME UNTIL
AFTER THE
SUMMER
FESTIVAL!





* ZANGI IS A TYPE OF FRIED CHICKEN DISH.

** EDAMAME ARE SOYBEANS OFTEN SERVED AS A SIDE DISH AT JAPANESE RESTAURANTS AND BARS.





YEAH...

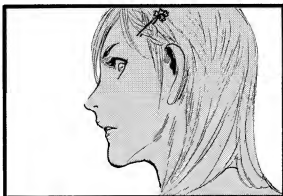
SHE MIGHT
AS WELL
COME TO
OUR PLACE
AT THIS
POINT.

THE POOR
GIRL GOT
FIRED.

I HOPE
YOU FEEL
AT LEAST A
LITTLE RE-
SPONSIBLE,
MATO-SAN.



"OUR
PLACE?"



I DON'T
MEAN LIVE
TOGETHER,
OR ANYTHING.

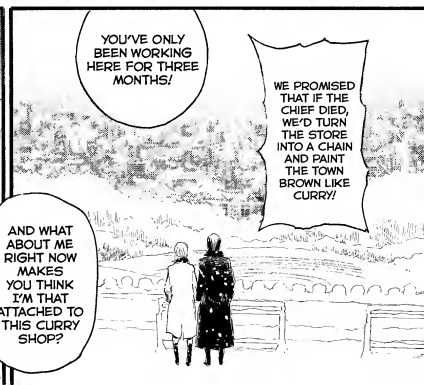
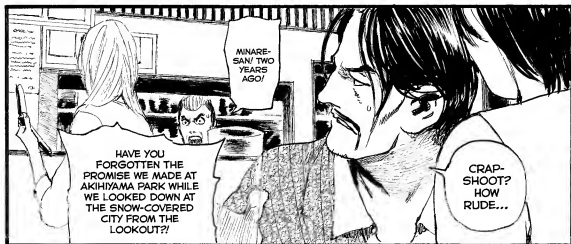
OH.

UH-HUH.



WHY DON'T
YOU TRY
WORKING AT
THE STATION
WITH US?







WHOA!

IN ALL THE TIME
I'VE KNOWN HER,
I'VE NEVER SEEN
HER USE THAT
EXPRESSION.

TAKARADA-
SAN.

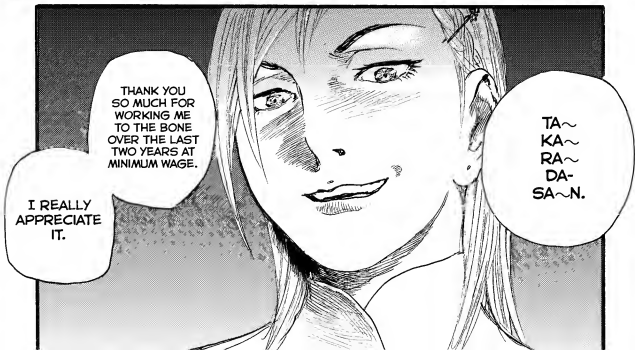


CONGRAT-
ULATIONS.
WELL, THIS
DOES MEAN
I'LL HAVE ONE
LESS THING TO
WORRY ABOUT
NOW.

I SEE
YOU'VE
FOUND
A NEW
PLACE TO
WORK.



CHIEF...
NO...



THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR
WORKING ME
TO THE BONE
OVER THE LAST
TWO YEARS AT
MINIMUM WAGE.

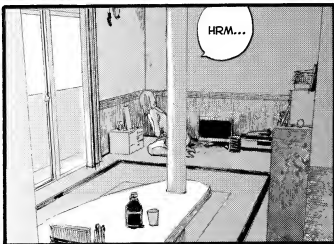
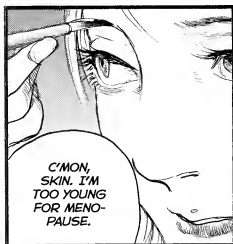
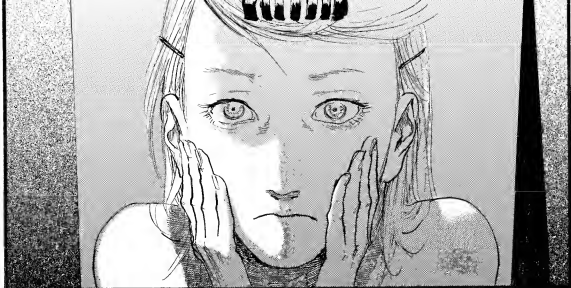
I REALLY
APPRECIATE
IT.

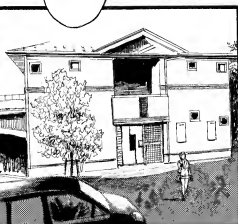
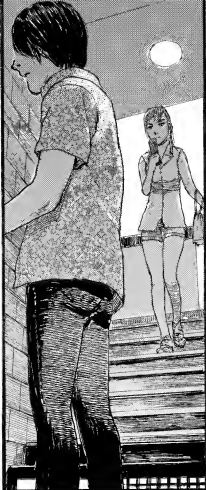
TA~
KA~
RA~
DA-
SA~N.



Chapter 3 「I DESPISE THEM.」







...DON'T STAY
UP ALL NIGHT
LOOKING AT
FORTUNE TELL-
ING SITES.

PEOPLE
WHOSE
HEARTS ARE
FULFILLED...

WELL,
WHATEVER.
I'LL SAVE
THIS
PAGE.

IS THERE
A POINT TO
THIS META-
PHOR?!

"ELEPHANT
HERE"
CAR."

HUH?
"YOUR NEXT
LOVER WILL
COME RIDING
IN ON A WHITE
ELEPHANT."

READY
TO GO?

MORNING.

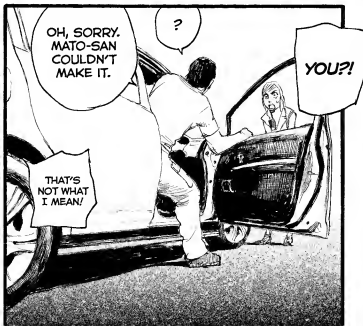


UMM...
KOMOTO-
SAN, WAS
IT?

YOU'RE
SOME KIND
OF ENGI-
NEER...

I'M AN
AUDIO
ENGINEER.

Anime
pose...

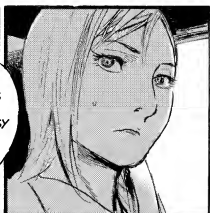


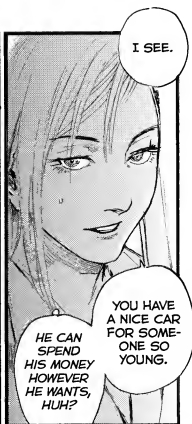
OH, SORRY.
MATO-SAN
COULDN'T
MAKE IT.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEAN!

?

YOU?!





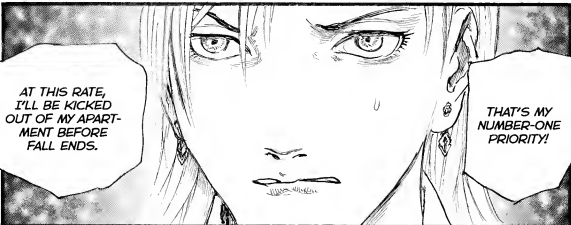


I WAS DUPED
OUT OF FIFTY OF
THE EIGHTY THOUSAND
YEN I HAD SAVED AND
I WON'T HAVE A JOB
SOON. I HAVE TO DO
EVERYTHING I CAN
TO OVERCOME THIS
UNPRECEDENTED
PREDICAMENT.

WORK!

MONEY!

RENT!



AT THIS RATE,
I'LL BE KICKED
OUT OF MY APART-
MENT BEFORE
FALL ENDS.

THAT'S MY
NUMBER-ONE
PRIORITY!



I'LL PAY
AS MUCH
MUNICIPAL
TAX AS YOU
WANT!

I WANT
TO STAY IN
SAPPORO
WHERE THE
SNOWPLOWS
RUN ALL
NIGHT!

WHY
IS SHE
CRYING ALL
OF A SUD-
DEN....?

scary
chick...

UWAHHH! I
JUST SAW
A VISION OF
SHOVELING
SNOW AT
HOME!

I DON'T
WANT TO GO
BACK TO
KUSHIRO!







HOW
COULD I NOT
WHEN YOU
OFFERED TO
PICK ME
UP?

YOU
FINALLY
CAME.

DOESN'T
THIS ROOM
EXCITE YOU?

Ha-ha-ha.

IT'S
BEEN
SO LONG
THAT I
FOR-
GOT...

THE
JOYS OF
BEING A
WOMAN?

HOW GOOD
IT FEELS
TO BE
PICKED UP
BY A GUY.

ACTUAL-
LY...

ABOUT
WHAT?

SO,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

CHEEKY.

humph
All jokes
aside..

I MEAN IT'D
BE ONE THING
IF IT WERE A
TV STUDIO,
BUT RADIO?
C'MOON...

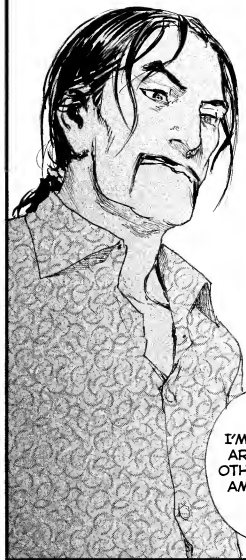
YOU
MEAN IN
AN OFFICE
SORT OF
WAY?

NUH-UH.

MINARE...

IF YOU'RE
BORED, WHY
DON'T YOU
TRY TALKING
IN FRONT
OF THE MIC
FOR A BIT?





I'M SURE THERE
ARE PLENTY OF
OTHER ELOQUENT
AMATEURS OUT
THERE.



I'M HAPPY
THAT YOU
INVITED ME...

...BUT WHAT
POSSESSED
YOU TO BRING
A CURRY SHOP
WAITRESS LIKE
ME INTO THE
RADIO WORLD?

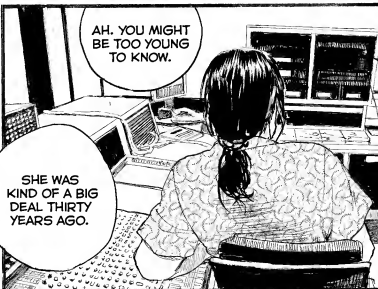
THAT WAS
INDEED THE
FIRST TIME
WE MET.

YOU'RE
NOT MIS-
TAKEN.

I DON'T
RECALL
MEETING YOU
BEFORE THAT
NIGHT AT THE
BAR. DID I DO
SOMETHING
TO LEAVE AN
IMPRESSION
ON YOU?

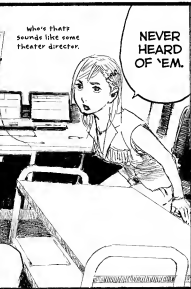


DO YOU
KNOW AN
ENTERTAIN-
ER BY THE
NAME SISSEL
KOMEI?



AH, YOU MIGHT
BE TOO YOUNG
TO KNOW.

where that?
sounds like some
theater director.



NEVER
HEARD
OF 'EM.

SHE WAS
KIND OF A BIG
DEAL THIRTY
YEARS AGO.



NOPE,
NOT AT
ALL.

AND I'M
GUESSING
MY VOICE
RESEMBLES
HERS OR
SOME-
THING?

I
SEE.

WHY
BRING
HER UP,
THEN?!



AND SHE'S
ALSO THE
REASON WHY
I SWITCHED
FROM TV TO
RADIO.

HOLD IT,
OLD MAN!

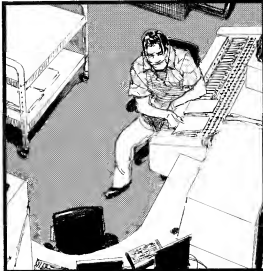
EH, YOU KNOW.
I JUST GOT FED
UP WITH FINDING WAYS
TO HAM-FISTEDLY
SHOVE LOCAL IDOLS
AND POPULAR VOICE
ACTORS INTO
PRODUCTIONS.

THAT STILL
DOESN'T
EXPLAIN
THAT TALK
ABOUT THE
ENTERTAIN-
ER!

I WANTED TO
TRY NURTURING A
SPEAKER FROM
THE GROUND
UP FOR A
CHANGE.



TAKE A
LOOK!



WE'VE
TRIED PLAYING
RECORDINGS
OF AMATEURS
TALKING OVER
THE AIR TWICE
SINCE THEN,

BUT EVEN
COMBINED,
WE DIDN'T GET HALF
THE RESPONSE
THAT WE GOT
WITH YOUR
SEGMENT.

THESE ARE ALL
COMMENTS THAT
WERE SENT TO
CHISHIRO'S SHOW
TALKING ABOUT
YOU.

THESE ARE ALL
COMMENTS THAT
WERE SENT TO
CHISHIRO'S SHOW
TALKING ABOUT
YOU.



THE POSITIVE RESPONSE MIGHT PARTIALLY BE BECAUSE THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER THIS...

...BUT THE BIGGEST REASON IS BECAUSE YOUR TALK WAS INTERESTING AND EASY TO LISTEN TO.

though lol)

R-N BENJAMINO (EBETSU/28/M)

(Regarding Street Corner Lost Love) I'm a guy with blood type B, but my heart felt light after hearing the segment.

AN ANONYMOUS

There's no way a drunk amateur can talk that smooth. You're probably from some agency, right? I won't fall for your tricks.

COLONIZER A (KITAHIROSHIMA/18/F)

About the new segment. I thought the whole thing was pretty great, even after it was hijacked by the speaker. Is that the plan for every week?

R-N ERIMO MIMI (CHITOSE/31/F)

Why don't you bring on the girl who on before as a guest? I'd like to hear Madoka-san get heated up over love talk.

R-N LA-LA SUNSHINE (SAPPORO/35/M)

I liked the energy of the new segment. While listening even though, "Is this really okay to air?"

R-N UNCHANGING (SAPPORO/27/M)

As a guy named Mitsuo, I felt chills go down my spine.

R-N ZUBROWKAECOLA (ISHIKARI/38/F)

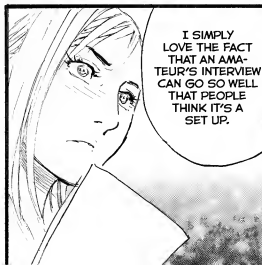
After listening to the story told on Street Corner Lost Love, I looked back on my marriage and thought how awful it would be if I were in her shoes. I'm going to...



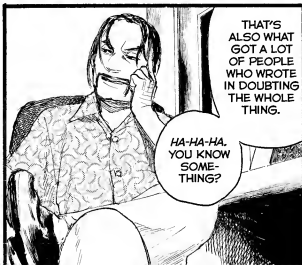
IN THOSE 26 MINUTES, YOU DIDN'T STAMMER ONCE.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING ANY AMATEUR COULD DO, EVEN WITH A SCRIPT AND REHEARSAL BEFOREHAND.

...BUT BETWEEN WHAT I RECORDED AT THE BAR AND WHAT YOU SAID IN THE STUDIO, WE HAD 26 MINUTES AND 10 SECONDS OF AUDIO FROM YOU.



I SIMPLY LOVE THE FACT THAT AN AMATEUR'S INTERVIEW CAN GO SO WELL THAT PEOPLE THINK IT'S A SET UP.



THAT'S ALSO WHAT GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WROTE IN DOUBTING THE WHOLE THING.

HA-HA-HA. YOU KNOW SOMETHING?



FROM
WHAT I HEAR,
YOUR STORE'S
GOING TO HAVE
A BOOTH AT
THE URASANDO
SUMMER FES-
TIVAL, RIGHT?

SOUNDS
FUNNY,
BUT MAY-
BE SOME
OTHER
TIME.

hmm...

or the time my
friend mistook
sponsored link*
for "apear
drinking"

HOW
ABOUT
THE TIME
MY FRIEND
THOUGHT
"SHEVARD-
NADZE"
WAS TOSA
DIALECT?

BUT WHAT
SHOULD I
EVEN TALK
ABOUT?

* EDUARD SHEVARNADZE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA.



THE PRODUCTION
COMPANY CHISHI-
RO BELONGS TO
SPONSORS THE
SHOW. I'M SURE
THEY'LL LET A
SMALL PLUG
SLIDE.

HUH?/
ARE
YOU
SURE?

WHY NOT
TAKE THIS
OPPOR-
TUNITY TO
ADVERTISE
IT?



KEEP
IT TO A
MINIMUM.

TO BE
HONEST...
I KIND
OF HATE
URASANDO,
SO IT MIGHT
JUST BE
ME TALKING
TRASH
ABOUT THE
TOWN. IS
THAT OKAY?



HOW ABOUT
YOU INTRO-
DUCE SOME
HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE URASANDO
SUMMER
FESTIVAL?

THAT BEING
SAID, IT'S
NOT QUITE
ENOUGH
FOR A
BROAD-
CAST.





FIVE MINUTES
OF MATERIAL IS
ENOUGH FOR
A SEGMENT.
IF SOMETHING
NEEDS TO BE
CUT, I'LL EDIT IT
BEFORE HAND-
ING IT OVER TO
THE OWNER.

WE'RE
NOT LIVE
THIS TIME,
SO TAKE IT
EASY.



BEFORE
YOU ONLY
CALLED
ME
"MISS."

LIKE
YOU'RE
TALKING TO A
COLLEAGUE OR
A JUNIOR.

BUT
TODAY
YOU'VE
BEEN
CALLING
ME BY MY
NAME.



WHAT
MAKES
YOU
SAY
THAT?



TREAT
ME LIKE
YOU
WOULD
THE
OTHERS!

WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THAT?!

NAH.
I ALWAYS
TACK ON SAN
OR CHAN
WHENEVER
I ADDRESS
RADIO
SPEAKERS.

technically
they aren't
part of the
company,
after all.



MATO-
SAN...

YOU'VE ALREADY
PRETTY MUCH
DECIDED THAT
YOU'RE GOING
TO TURN ME
INTO A RADIO
PERSONALITY,
HAVEN'T YOU?



**YOU SURE
TALK BIG
FOR A TINY,
LOCAL RADIO
STATION!**

**DOESN'T
RADIO TAKE
A BACKSEAT
TO LIVE
STREAMING
THESE DAYS,
ANYWAY?**

MINARE.

**LET'S TAKE
THE WORLD,
EH?**



**CUE
VOICE!**

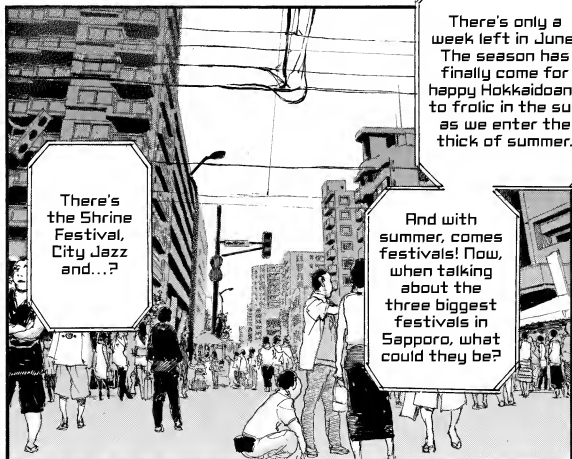
**GOOD
GODDAMN
AFTER-
NOON,
EVERYONE!**

**AH,
SHUT UP.
HERE WE
GO.**

3

2

1



There's
the Shrine
Festival,
City Jazz
and...?

There's only a
week left in June!
The season has
finally come for
happy Hokkaidoans
to frolic in the sun
as we enter the
thick of summer.

And with
summer, comes
festivals! Now,
when talking
about the
three biggest
festivals in
Sapporo, what
could they be?



Urasando,
home for the rich
and glamorous!
Urasando, which
boasts the only
millionaire apart-
ment complex in
all of Hokkaido!

That's
right! The
Maruyama
Urasando
Summer
Festival!

*You're
excited,
right?!*



Then again...
I hate to admit it,
but it's only at a
festival held in a
ritzy town where
you can get that
kinda street
food. I gotta tell
you folks, each
and every stall
there...

What an
abhorrent
town, am I
right?



We open
at noon,
so hop
to it.

IDE-KUN,
CAN YOU GIVE
ME A HAND
WITH THIS?

Seri-
ously!

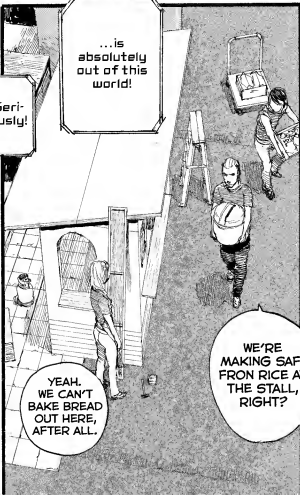
...is
absolutely
out of this
world!



Now that's
mainly be-
cause a lot
of the stalls
in Urasando
are run by
restaurants.

S-
SURE!

←part-timer



WE'RE
MAKING SAF-
FRON RICE AT
THE STALL,
RIGHT?

YEAH.
WE CAN'T
BAKE BREAD
OUT HERE,
AFTER ALL.



IT
MUST
HAVE
COM-
PELLED
HIM TO
RETURN.

WE,
THE
YOUNG
WORK-
ERS ARE
RAISING
THE BAN-
NER OF
GAGARIN.



IT
MUST
HAVE
COM-
PELLED
HIM TO
RETURN.

WE,
THE
YOUNG
WORK-
ERS ARE
RAISING
THE BAN-
NER OF
GAGARIN.

MINARE-SAN...WHO'S THAT?

HUH? OH...

ISN'T THAT THE MASTER'S GRANDSON?

Just going by the shape of his head.

MINARE-SAN...WHO'S THAT?

HUH? OH...

ISN'T THAT THE MASTER'S GRANDSON?

Just going by the shape of his head.

MINARE-SAN...WHO'S THAT?

HUH? OH...

ISN'T THAT THE MASTER'S GRANDSON?

Just going by the shape of his head.

MINARE-SAN...WHO'S THAT?

HUH? OH...

ISN'T THAT THE MASTER'S GRANDSON?

Just going by the shape of his head.

WHAT YOUR, WHAT MINUTE, WHAT FRAME DID I DIE TO YOU?!

I LOSE COUNT AFTER SEVEN-TEEN TIMES.

WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?!

THAT STORY WAS TRUE...?

WHAT YOUR, WHAT MINUTE, WHAT FRAME DID I DIE TO YOU?!

I LOSE COUNT AFTER SEVEN-TEEN TIMES.

WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?!

THAT STORY WAS TRUE...?

WHAT YOUR, WHAT MINUTE, WHAT FRAME DID I DIE TO YOU?!

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WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?!

THAT STORY WAS TRUE...?

WHAT YOUR, WHAT MINUTE, WHAT FRAME DID I DIE TO YOU?!

I LOSE COUNT AFTER SEVEN-TEEN TIMES.

WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?!

THAT STORY WAS TRUE...?

I hate Urasando!
But I love the food!
*Sigh...*luxury apart-
ments. With my rage
driving me, you bet
I conquered every
stall there! Like hell
I'll lose to those
fat cats!

WAIT,
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!
WE OPEN AT
NOON!

GET
BACK TO
YOUR POST!

YEAH,
YEAH...

I hate Urasando!
But I love the food!
*Sigh...*luxury apart-
ments. With my rage
driving me, you bet
I conquered every
stall there! Like hell
I'll lose to those
fat cats!

WAIT,
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!
WE OPEN AT
NOON!

GET
BACK TO
YOUR POST!

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YEAH...

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But I love the food!
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WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
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NOON!

GET
BACK TO
YOUR POST!

YEAH,
YEAH...

I hate Urasando!
But I love the food!
*Sigh...*luxury apart-
ments. With my rage
driving me, you bet
I conquered every
stall there! Like hell
I'll lose to those
fat cats!

WAIT,
WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!
WE OPEN AT
NOON!

GET
BACK TO
YOUR POST!

YEAH,
YEAH...

MINARE-SAN...
TAKARADA-SAN
ISN'T THE ONE
WHO MADE
THIS, IS HE?

I TOLD
YOU, IT'S
TAKARADA-
SAN'S
MASTER'S
CURRY.

MINARE-SAN... TAKARADA-SAN ISN'T THE ONE WHO MADE THIS, IS HE?

I TOLD YOU, IT'S TAKARADA-SAN'S MASTER'S CURRY.



BUT IT
TURNS OUT
TAKARADA-SAN
SURPASSED
HIS MASTER IN
SKILL.



THAT'S THE
TRUE PUR-
POSE FOR
VOYAGER'S
EXISTENCE.

A BRANCH
THAT PASS-
ES ON THE
FLAVOR OF
GAGARIN TO
THE NEXT
GENERA-
TION.



BUT
THIS... I
MEAN THE
CHIEF'S
CURRY IS...

HUH?!



BUT WE CAN'T
JUST THROW IT
AWAY, SO A FEW
TIMES EVERY
YEAR WE SELL
IT AT FESTIVALS
LIKE THIS,

BORROWING
THE NAME OF
GAGARIN EACH
TIME FOR SOME
HALF-ASSED
REASON.

SO, HE
TOOK THE
NOW USELESS
GAGARIN'S SOUP
AND PACKED A
BUNCH OF IT AWAY
IN OUR STORE'S
FREEZER.

SIZZLE SIZZLE



Oh! I
almost forgot!
Gagarin! Get
some soup
curry at
Gagarin!



IT'S AN
INCREDIBLY
STUPID
TALE.

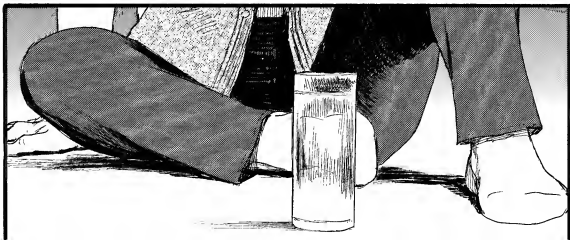
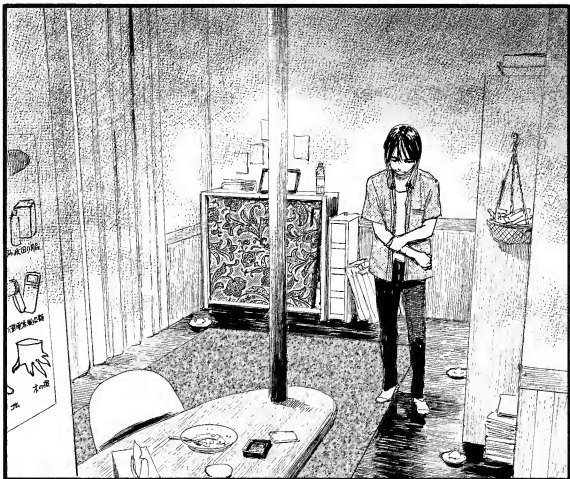
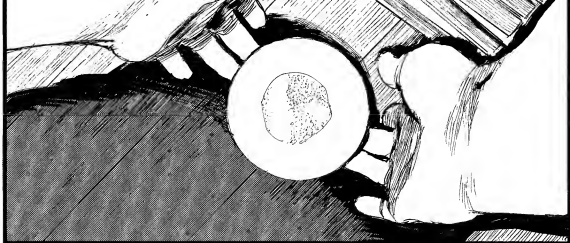
NEITHER.

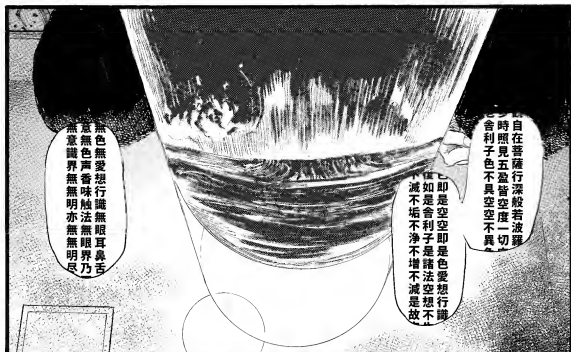
I DUNNO
IF THAT'S
AN UNFOR-
TUNATE
TALE OR
JUST CRUEL.

What's
with
that?



Chapter 4 「I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.」





* A JAPANESE VERSION OF THE HEART SUTRA, A FAMOUS MANTRA IN MAHAYANA BUDDHISM.





I'M OFF
TO WORK.

RITSUKO.



TROLL-
INGER
ME!

WINE JOURNEY 15: KERNER

A WHITE WINE MADE FROM A BLEND
OF TROLLINGER AND REISLING GRAPES.
EASY-TO-GROW AND RESILIENT TO FROST.
PRODUCED IN HOKKAIDO, JAPAN.



YOU

A DREAMLAND OF
CURRY AND BREAD.

VOYAGER

BETTER
BE

VOYAGER



YOU
CALL
THAT
ADVERTISING?

I ADVERTISED
THE HELL
OUT OF
THIS
STORE!



I'M PRETTY
SURE I TOLD
YOU I WAS
LETTING YOU
GO AFTER
THE SUMMER
FESTIVAL.

WHAT'RE
YOU
WAITING
FOR?

DID YOU
LISTEN
TO THE
RADIO?!



...in
exchange
for a
plug.

And I don't
remember
promising
to let you
keep your
job.

A
THREE
SEC-
OND
PLUG?

AND I
ONLY SUPPLY
ENOUGH CURRY
TO THE STAND
THAT I KNOW
WILL SELL OUT
EVERY YEAR.

PLUS,
IT WAS FOR
THE STAND,
NOT THE
STORE.



IS THE
WORLD
ALL CHUPA
CHUPS** TO
YOU?

I'LL
WORK
AS A
LIVE-IN
SECOM*
AGENT!

SOMEONE
OUGHT TO
TAKE YOUR
LOLLY.

I'LL THROW
TOGETHER
MY OWN
LIVING
QUARTERS.



guardian

AHH, FINE! I
HEAR YOU
LOUD
AND
CLEAR!

YOU MEAN
SECURITY?

THEN I'LL
BE THIS
STORE'S
GUARDIAN!

** A BRAND OF LOLLIPOP.

* A HOME SECURITY COMPANY IN JAPAN.



IT'S NOT THAT
YOU WERE A POOR
EMPLOYEE.

KODA-SAN...



IT'S THAT
THE DREAMLAND
OF BREAD AND
CURRY THAT I WANT
TO BUILD JUST
DOESN'T NEED WHAT
YOU HAVE TO BRING
TO THE TABLE.

YOU DIDN'T
MESS UP
ORDERS AND
YOU WAITED
TABLES FINE.

PLUS,
YOU'RE
SOMEWHAT
POPULAR
AMONG THE
CUSTOMERS.



WHAT
CRUEL
WORLD ARE
WE LIVING
IN?!

UGH...NOT
EVEN SO MUCH
AS A FAREWELL
GIFT, JUST
A DAY WAGE.
TALK ABOUT A
HARD KNOCK
LIFE!

SCREW
YOUR
"DREAM-
LAND"!

THEM'S
THE
BREAKS.



GET THIS.
HE'S GAY!
GAY, I SAY!

...ESPECIALLY
HARD ON YOU,
MINARE-SAN?



NOM

YOU KNOW
I ALWAYS
THOUGHT IT
WAS KIND OF
STRANGE.

ISN'T
TAKARADA-
SAN...



HE HAS ALL THOSE PHOTOS OF CELEBRITIES THAT VISITED THE STORE PINNED UP ON THE WALL THAT SEPARATES THE KITCHEN FROM THE DINING AREA, RIGHT?

G-GAY...?



BUT WHENEVER HE'S WITH A YOUNG GUY, HE ALWAYS HAS HIS HAND ON THEIR ASS!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

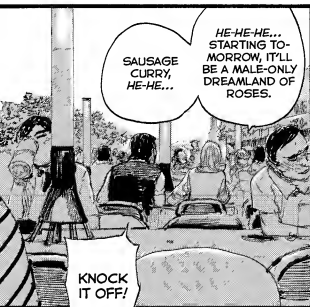
HUH?!



DOESN'T ANYTHING STICK OUT TO YOU IN THOSE?

WHENEVER HE'S WITH A WOMAN, HE LOOKS LIKE IT'S WHATEVER.

NOT IN PARTICULAR...



SAUSAGE CURRY, HE-HE...

HE-HE-HE... STARTING TOMORROW, IT'LL BE A MALE-ONLY DREAMLAND OF ROSES.

KNOCK IT OFF!



REALLY?!

WAIT, HOW DID YOU NOT FIGURE SOMETHING WAS UP UNTIL NOW?

FOR REAL?! NO WONDER HE JUST CASUALLY TOUCHES MY ASS IN THE KITCHEN.



I'LL GIVE
YOU A HAND.
LET'S START
LOOKING
TOMORROW
AFTERNOON,
OKAY?

AKAMON
CLUB...?*

OH, GOD.
WORK...
WHAT AM
I GONNA
DO ABOUT
WORK?
HUEH...

* A FAMOUS CABARET CLUB IN SUSUKINO



WHO TOLD
YOU THAT?

THIS ISN'T
HOW IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE...

HOW DID
THIS HAP-
PEN? SINCE
MY LUCK
WITH MEN
DRIED
UP...

MY WORK
LUCK
SHOULD BE
INVERSELY
PROPOR-
TIONAL.

* PSYCHOLOGICAL ASTROLOGER AND DIVINATOR

** FRAU: A WOMEN'S MAGAZINE FEATURING RYUJI KAGAMI'S STAR DIVINATIONS.



BUT THEN
I REMEM-
BERED I HAVE
TO RENEW MY
LEASE AND
GET MY CAR
INSPECTED
NEXT MONTH.

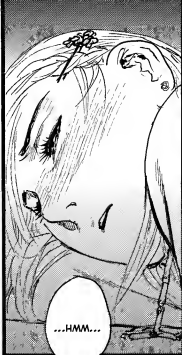
I THOUGHT
I COULD GET
BY FOR A
WHILE ON MY
SAVINGS,

NO ONE
IS CRASHING
AND BURNING



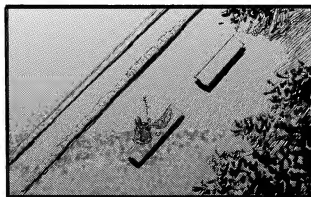
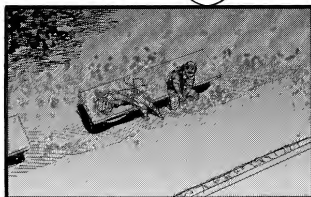
FRAU
...?*

RYUJI
KAGAMI-
SENSEI,*
DUMBASS!
WHO
ELSE?!



...HMM...

WANNA
STAY AT
MY PLACE,
THEN?



WH-
WHAT'S
UP?!

BWA-
HA!

YOU ENDED
UP DEAD AT
TANUKI KOJI*
WITH A KNIFE
IN YOUR GUT.

I JUST
RAN A QUICK
SIMULATION OF
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF I
LIVED AT YOUR
PLACE.

AHH,
THAT
SCARED
ME!

WHAT
KIND OF
GUY DO
YOU TAKE
ME FOR?

AND?

NAKA-
HARA-
KUN!

I JUST
YELLED AND
STOMPED AS
HARD AS I CAN.
DON'T TAKE
SHIT DRUNK
PEOPLE SAY
SERIOUSLY,
IDIOT.

YOU KNOW
KENPO?!

A KENPO
STOMP TO
DRIVE THE
DRUNKEN-
NESS
AWAY.

RIGHT?
SO...

THE
ONLY THING
TYING US
TOGETHER...

...IS
SOUP
CURRY!

GYAHHH!

WHAM



* The worst situation possible.





STARK!

HOW-
EVER!

TONIGHT
MARKS THE
MOMENT
WHEN WE
MUST PART!



...THEN YOU
CAN EXPECT
THAT I WILL
APPEAR
BEFORE YOU
AGAIN.

UNTIL
THEN...

SHOULD MY
COFFERS
REALLY RUN
DRY...



FARE-
WELL!

!!
DASH!!



SHE
JUST SAYS
WHATEVER'S
CONVENIENT
FOR HER AND
BOLTS.

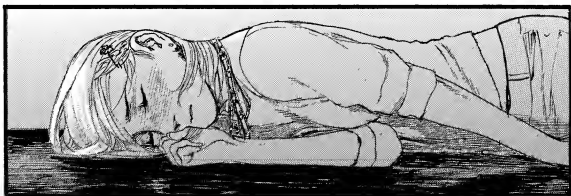
WAS
SHE
TRYING
TO
SOUND
COOL?



IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'LL COUNT ON ME WHEN SHE REALLY NEEDS IT.

...ME, I GUESS.

WHAT GUY WOULD BE HAPPY WITH THAT?



250,000 YEN IN THE BANK...*

* ROUGHLY 2,500 DOLLARS.



...THEN ANOTHER 200,000 FOR THE CAR INSPECTION AND LEASE.

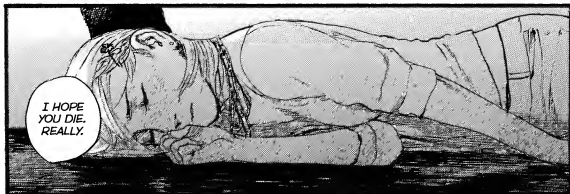
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME?

I HAVE TO MAKE A 60,000 YEN PAYMENT BY NEXT MONTH...



mitsuo...

I WISH
SOMEONE
WOULD LET
ME STAY WITH
THEM. AHH...



I HOPE
YOU DIE.
REALLY.



I LIKE THE
BEER FROM
KIRIN'S
BOOTH...



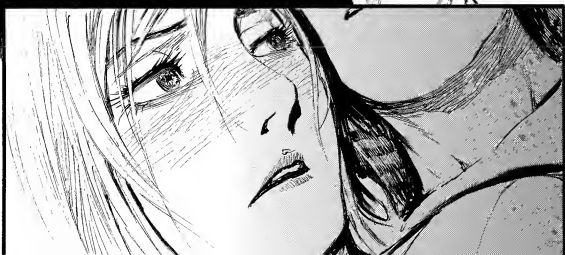
SIGH...

WHAT A
DILEMMA.

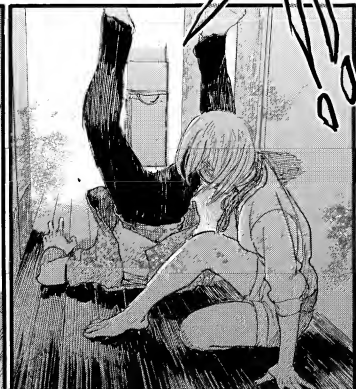
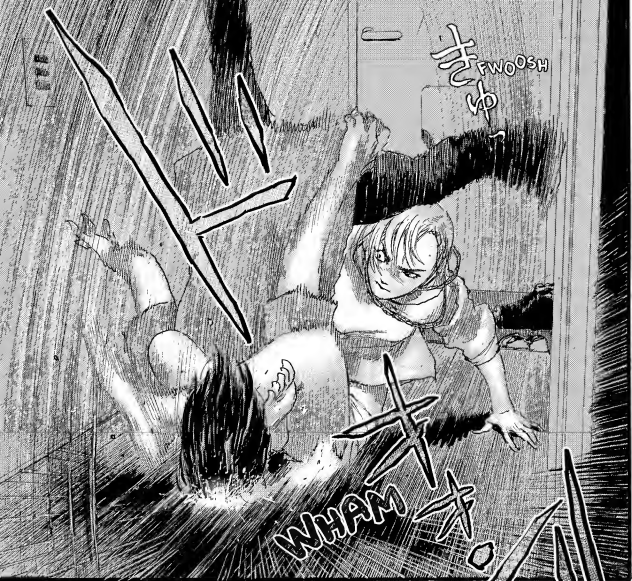
...BUT THE
FOOD AT
THE BEER
GARDEN IS
THE BEST.



I HAVE TO
SHOWER.









NO... I
THREW
HIM TO
THE
GROUND.

ANYWAY,
HE'S
ROCKING
A FLANNEL
SHIRT AND
A MIDDLE
PART...

OFFICER!
THERE'S
AN IN-
TRUDER
IN MY
HOUSE!

Sapporo
Police
Station.

バチン!
CLACK



SO, IF I
UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION
CORRECTLY...

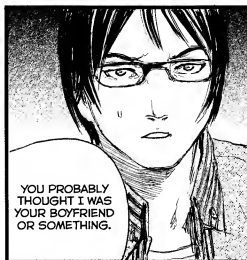


...THEN PUT ME
TO BED AND
LEFT MY SHOES
NEATLY BY THE
DOOR?!

AND EVERY
TIME, YOU
CARRIED ME
ALL THE WAY
BACK TO MY
OWN APART-
MENT....



EVERY TIME I
CAME HOME
DRUNK, I'D COL-
LAPSE IN YOUR
ENTRANCE, THE
UNIT BELOW MINE.



YOU PROBABLY
THOUGHT I WAS
YOUR BOYFRIEND
OR SOMETHING.

YOU'D CRAWL
BACK IN NO
MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES I
TOSSED YOU
OUT, AND IF I
LOCKED YOU
OUT, YOU'D
WAIL AND
POUND ON
MY DOOR.



And my
shirt's not
flannel.

I DIDN'T
DO IT
BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO.





...SUCH A
WRECK THAT
I'VE BECOME
A PUBLIC
NUISANCE?!

I'M
ACTUALLY...



NOT ONLY AM
I NOT THE METIC-
ULOUS PERSON I
THOUGHT I WAS,
WHO COULD COME
HOME BLACKOUT
DRUNK AND WAKE
UP WITH MY
SHOES TIDY...

WAIT.
THEN, I...



AH, ALL RIGHT.
SORRY FOR
THE DISTUR-
BANCE.

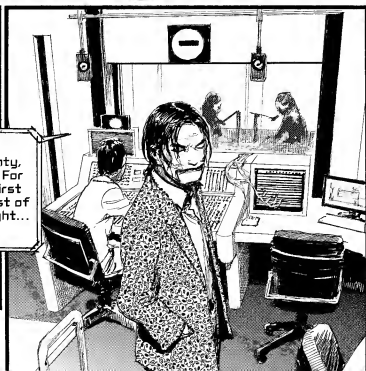
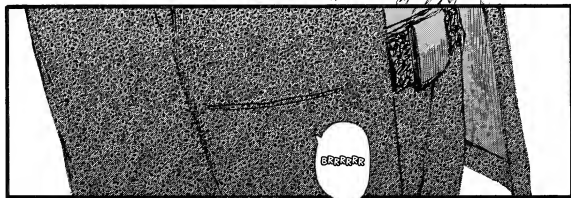
WELL, THEN.
SINCE EVERY-
THING SEEMS
TO BE IN
ORDER HERE,
WE'LL BE ON
OUR WAY.



shetch



I HATE TO
INTERRUPT YOU
WHEN YOU'RE
HAMMING IT
UP LIKE KEANO
REEVES FROM
THE MATRIX,
BUT COULD
YOU GET OUT
NOW, PLEASE?





**MATO-SAN!
EMERGENCY!
EMERGENCY!**

Here's Sambo-
master's Sono
Nukumori ni
You ga Aru.

**I'LL TAKE
THE RADIO
JOB!**

**UH-HUH!
ALSO...**

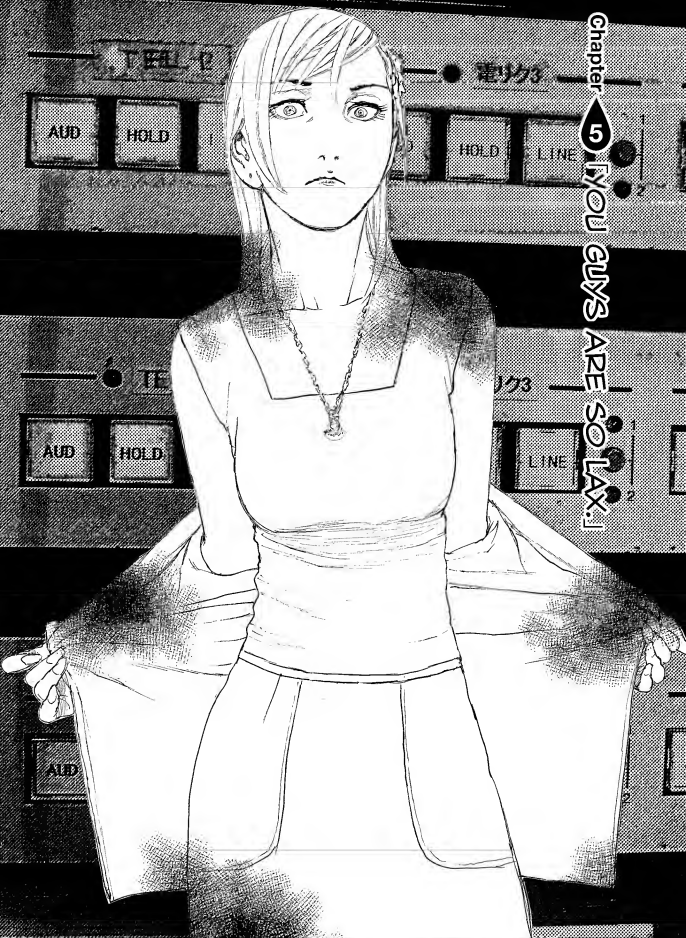


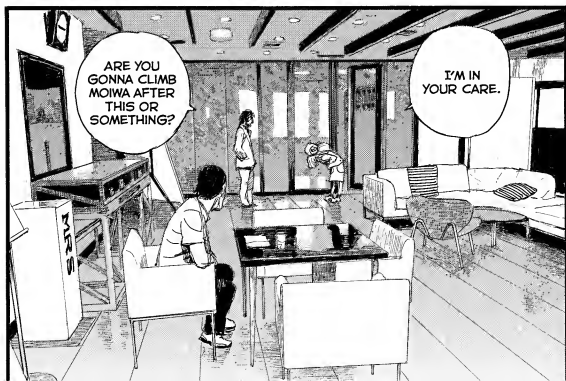
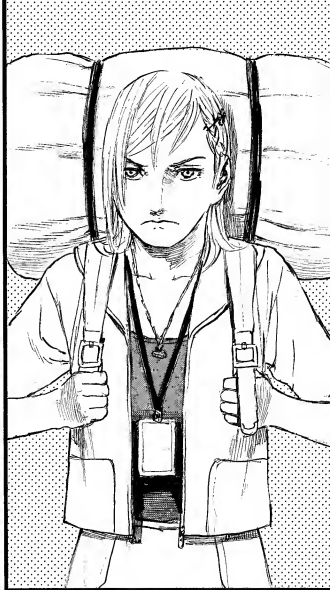
**HUH? THE
STORAGE
SPACE?! YOU
LITTLE...**

**OKAY, OKAY!
STORAGE
SPACE IT IS!**

**SET UP
SOMEWHERE
FOR ME TO
SLEEP AT
THE STATION,
WILL YA?!**

Chapter 5 YOU GUYS ARE SO LAX!







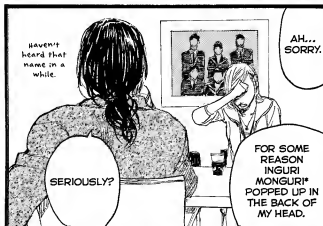
* CASH SHOPS ARE IN-GAME STORES YOU CAN PURCHASE COSMETIC ITEMS AND SUCH WITH REAL MONEY.





ARE YOU
INTERESTED
IN HAVING
YOUR OWN
TALK SHOW?

MINARE.

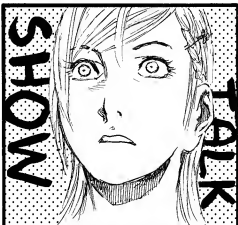


HAVEN'T
HEARD THAT
NAME IN A
WHILE.

AH...
SORRY.

SERIOUSLY?

FOR SOME
REASON
INGURI
MONGURI*
POPPED UP IN
THE BACK OF
MY HEAD.



* A BAND ACTIVE IN THE LATE 80'S. THIS IS A PUN BASED ON KANAMURI BANGURI (苺暮里), THE AFOREMENTIONED "TALK SHOW" MATO MENTIONS. MINARE PROBABLY THOUGHT OF INGURI MONGURI BECAUSE OF THE SIMILAR INTONATION.



LIKE TAMORI
CLUB AND
TETSUKO'S
ROOM?

THAT'S
USUALLY
THE CASE
FOR TV.

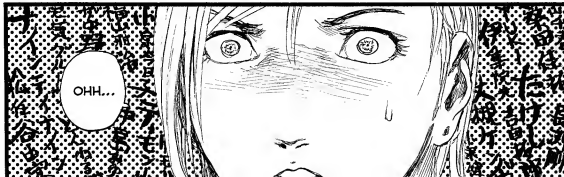
BY TALK
SHOW...

...YOU MEAN
THE KIND
WHERE THE
HOST'S NAME
IS IN THE
TITLE?



...IT'D BE
MORE LIKE
KODA MINARE'S
ALL NIGHT
JAPAN.

BUT
SINCE WE'RE
RADIO...



OHH...

* NAMES OF VARIOUS JAPANESE CELEBRITIES.



HAVE YOU
EVER LISTENED
TO A SHOW ON
MRS CALLED
SOUND HIGH
TIDE?

SAY,
MINARE.



NO
DOUBT.



I SEE. IT'S
ACTUALLY A
PRETTY LONG
SHOW.

NOPE.

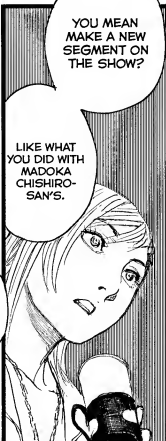
BUT MRS
ISN'T A
FLAGSHIP
STATION.

NO MATTER
WHICH WAY THE
SHOW GOES, IT
WON'T MATCH
UP TO SHOWS
THAT HAVE BEEN
ON THE AIR FOR
DECADES.



IT'D BE YOUR
OWN TALK
SHOW, WITH
YOUR OWN
SPONSOR.

NUH-UH.



YOU MEAN
MAKE A NEW
SEGMENT ON
THE SHOW?

LIKE WHAT
YOU DID WITH
MADOKA
CHISHIRO-
SAN'S.



I'M THINKING
OF ALLOCATING
SOME OF THEIR
TIME SLOT TO
MAKE ROOM FOR
YOUR SHOW.



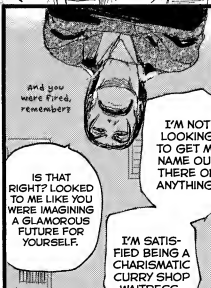
* JFL: JAPAN FM LEAGUE, A COMMERCIAL RADIO NETWORK.

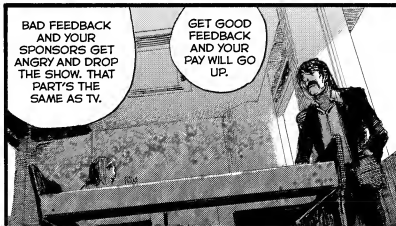
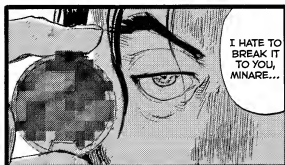
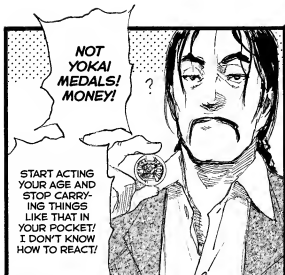


YOUR
VOICE
WILL
BE HEARD
THROUGH-
OUT THE
ENTIRE
REGION.

...BUT WE'RE
ACTUALLY AN
AFFILIATE WITH
THE JFL.* WE HAVE
RELAY STATIONS IN
SEVEN PARTS OF
HOKKAIDO.

MINARE,
YOU CALLED
MRS A LOCAL
RADIO STATION
BEFORE....







I CAN'T
HELP BUT
FEEL LIKE HE
DODGED THE
QUESTION
ABOUT PAY.

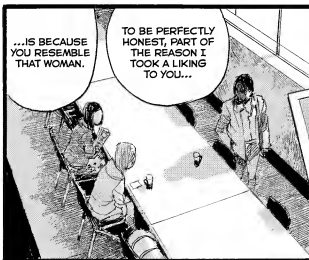


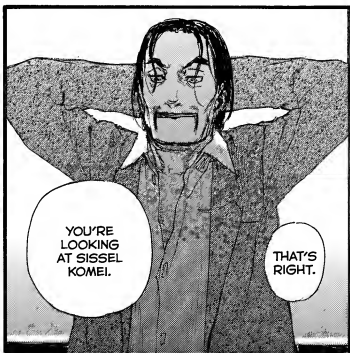
Even though
I'm the one
who asked
you for the
job

I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT EXACTLY
IT IS YOU SEE
IN ME.



...IS BECAUSE
I FEEL YOU
HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES TO
MAKE IT.





北22.6 南22.2
 東103.5 西102.5
 東80.3 西83.5

MRS
 XX-XXX-XXXX

邦楽 5.00
 喫茶店 6.00
 美人子 9.00
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 長閑 642.00
 恋するラジオ 643.00
 千葉船橋市 644.00
 歌謡スワップ 645.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 646.00
 ショック 647.00
 クラシック 648.00
 エロソナタ 649.00
 ショック 650.00
 ケント 651.00
 飛行機 652.00
 邦楽 653.00
 喫茶店 654.00
 美人子 655.00
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 クマリン 657.00
 電波 658.00
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 語り 660.00
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 千葉船橋市 663.00
 歌謡スワップ 664.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 665.00
 ショック 666.00
 クラシック 667.00
 エロソナタ 668.00
 ショック 669.00
 ケント 670.00
 飛行機 671.00
 邦楽 672.00
 喫茶店 673.00
 美人子 674.00
 飛行機 675.00
 クマリン 676.00
 電波 677.00
 フォーミー 678.00
 語り 679.00
 長閑 680.00
 恋するラジオ 681.00
 千葉船橋市 682.00
 歌謡スワップ 683.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 684.00
 ショック 685.00
 クラシック 686.00
 エロソナタ 687.00
 ショック 688.00
 ケント 689.00
 飛行機 690.00
 邦楽 691.00
 喫茶店 692.00
 美人子 693.00
 飛行機 694.00
 クマリン 695.00
 電波 696.00
 フォーミー 697.00
 語り 698.00
 長閑 699.00
 恋するラジオ 700.00
 千葉船橋市 701.00
 歌謡スワップ 702.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 703.00
 ショック 704.00
 クラシック 705.00
 エロソナタ 706.00
 ショック 707.00
 ケント 708.00
 飛行機 709.00
 邦楽 710.00
 喫茶店 711.00
 美人子 712.00
 飛行機 713.00
 クマリン 714.00
 電波 715.00
 フォーミー 716.00
 語り 717.00
 長閑 718.00
 恋するラジオ 719.00
 千葉船橋市 720.00
 歌謡スワップ 721.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 722.00
 ショック 723.00
 クラシック 724.00
 エロソナタ 725.00
 ショック 726.00
 ケント 727.00
 飛行機 728.00
 邦楽 729.00
 喫茶店 730.00
 美人子 731.00
 飛行機 732.00
 クマリン 733.00
 電波 734.00
 フォーミー 735.00
 語り 736.00
 長閑 737.00
 恋するラジオ 738.00
 千葉船橋市 739.00
 歌謡スワップ 740.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 741.00
 ショック 742.00
 クラシック 743.00
 エロソナタ 744.00
 ショック 745.00
 ケント 746.00
 飛行機 747.00
 邦楽 748.00
 喫茶店 749.00
 美人子 750.00
 飛行機 751.00
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 電波 753.00
 フォーミー 754.00
 語り 755.00
 長閑 756.00
 恋するラジオ 757.00
 千葉船橋市 758.00
 歌謡スワップ 759.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 760.00
 ショック 761.00
 クラシック 762.00
 エロソナタ 763.00
 ショック 764.00
 ケント 765.00
 飛行機 766.00
 邦楽 767.00
 喫茶店 768.00
 美人子 769.00
 飛行機 770.00
 クマリン 771.00
 電波 772.00
 フォーミー 773.00
 語り 774.00
 長閑 775.00
 恋するラジオ 776.00
 千葉船橋市 777.00
 歌謡スワップ 778.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 779.00
 ショック 780.00
 クラシック 781.00
 エロソナタ 782.00
 ショック 783.00
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 飛行機 785.00
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 美人子 788.00
 飛行機 789.00
 クマリン 790.00
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 語り 793.00
 長閑 794.00
 恋するラジオ 795.00
 千葉船橋市 796.00
 歌謡スワップ 797.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 798.00
 ショック 799.00
 クラシック 800.00
 エロソナタ 801.00
 ショック 802.00
 ケント 803.00
 飛行機 804.00
 邦楽 805.00
 喫茶店 806.00
 美人子 807.00
 飛行機 808.00
 クマリン 809.00
 電波 810.00
 フォーミー 811.00
 語り 812.00
 長閑 813.00
 恋するラジオ 814.00
 千葉船橋市 815.00
 歌謡スワップ 816.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 817.00
 ショック 818.00
 クラシック 819.00
 エロソナタ 820.00
 ショック 821.00
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 飛行機 823.00
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 喫茶店 825.00
 美人子 826.00
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 電波 829.00
 フォーミー 830.00
 語り 831.00
 長閑 832.00
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 千葉船橋市 834.00
 歌謡スワップ 835.00
 酒と涙の演歌集 836.00
 ショック 837.00
 クラシック 838.00
 エロソナタ 839.00
 ショック 840.00
 ケント 841.00
 飛行機 842.00
 邦楽 843.00
 喫茶店 844.00
 美人子 845.00
 飛行機 846.00
 クマリン 847.00
 電波 848.00
 フォーミー 849.0



OLD MAN!
YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?!

NOW THE
ONLY
QUESTION
LEFT IS,

WHERE
DO WE
FIND A
SPONSOR
FOR IT?

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, SHOW?
THIS SLOT IS
FOR A TEST
BROADCAST!

WHAT COMPANY
WOULD THINK
TO PLAY A
COMMERCIAL
AT THIS TIME?!

HEY!

NO ONE'S
LISTENING
AT 3 AM!



YOU MIGHT
WANT TO COME
IN SIDEWAYS.

THANKS FOR
HAVING ME.

HUH...?

OH, YOU CAN
PUT YOUR
THINGS
DOWN OVER
THERE.

WOW.
YOU
KEEP A
CLEAN
PLACE.

unusually so.



* ABOUT 24 DOLLARS.

THANK YOU,
DEALS!

TWO BOTTLES
OF CHAPLIS
FROM JUPITER!
(2400 YEN*)

SORRY!
I'M YOUR
ELDER, BUT
DISCOUNT
WINE IS
ABOUT
ALL I CAN
AFFORD
RIGHT NOW!

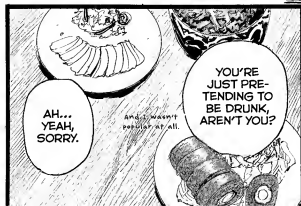
THIS IS
PLENTY
TASTY.



ONCE AGAIN,
THANKS FOR
LETTING ME
STAY OVER!

MY
PLEASURE.





ONLY
RARELY FOR
SENDING
FILES.

THERE
WERE A
BUNCH
OF FAX
MACHINES
AT THE
STUDIO.

DO
THOSE
EVEN
GET
USED?

WHAT DOES
AN ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR FOR
RADIO DO?

OH,
TAKAHASHI
ONLY.

PICKING
CDS FROM
THE VAULT,
CARRYING
FAXES, SORT-
ING SONG
REQUESTS...

ODD JOBS,
MOSTLY.

IT'LL
PROBABLY
BE A WHILE
BEFORE WE
GET RID OF
THEM.

BUT ELDERLY
LISTENERS
STILL MAINLY
SEND RE-
QUESTS
VIA FAX.

BUT THE FACT
THAT YOU CAN
STILL WORK
WITH EQUIP-
MENT FROM
DECADES
AGO...

THOSE WERE
DONE IN WHAT
FELT LIKE A
HIGH-SCHOOL
BROADCAST
ROOM.

EVEN SO, THE
FIRST DAY I
CAME TO MRS
I WAS AMAZED
WITH HOW NEW
THE STUDIO
FELT.

IT WAS WAY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
COMMUNITY
BROADCASTS
I HELPED
OUT WITH
WHEN I WAS IN
SCHOOL.

...IS ONE OF
THE THINGS
I LIKE MOST
ABOUT RADIO.

BU-HA-
HA! OH,
YEAH?



WHAT MATO-SAN
SAID TO YOU THE
FIRST TIME YOU
CAME TO MRS.



I JUST
REMEM-
BERED
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

OH,
NOTHING...

Are you
drunk
already?

WHAT?



PFF!
AH-HA-
HA!

HUH?!
WHAT'S
UP?

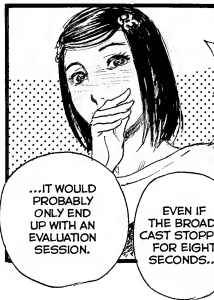


IF YOU
WANNA STOP
THE RECORD-
ING, THEN
YOU'LL HAVE
TO FILL THE
SPACE.



RADIO HAS
THIS THING
WE CALL THE
"THREE SEC-
OND RULE."

THREE SEC-
ONDS OF DEAD
AIR MEANS A
BROADCAST
INCIDENT, EIGHT
SECONDS AND
IT'S MY HEAD
ON A PLATTER.



...IT WOULD
PROBABLY
ONLY END
UP WITH AN
EVALUATION
SESSION.

EVEN IF
THE BROAD-
CAST STOPPED
FOR EIGHT
SECONDS...



HUH?!
SERI-
OUSLY?

Don't get
me wrong,
dead air
is bad.

HE WAS
EXAGGERATING
QUITE A BIT.

ANOTHER GOOD
THING ABOUT
RADIO IS THAT
THE LISTENERS
ARE GENERALLY
UNDERSTANDING.

RADIO
SURE IS
LAX!

WHAT THE
HELL IS
THAT?!

Are you
studying?!

EVALUATION
SESSION?!

DAYAN

BUT
THAT WAS
AWESOME!

THE
RESPONSE
WAS GOOD,
TOO.

NO WONDER
YOU'RE ALL
SO NUMB TO
DANGER THAT
YOU LET A TOTAL
AMATEUR RANT
ON THE AIR.

And
you're too
Frank!

YOUR FANS
TOTALLY
SPOIL YOU!

Actually,
we get
letters of
encourage-
ment.

EVEN IF A
SPEAKER
SCREWS
UP BIG
TIME, WE
RARELY
GET COM-
PLAINTS.

HA-HA-HA-
HA-HA-HA-
HA!

she just
keeps
going.

I DIDN'T EVEN
SAY ANYTHING
THAT FUNNY...

IN ORDER TO
MAKE YOU
GUYS AMEND
YOUR COM-
PLETE LACK
OF SENSE, I'LL
GET THE MOST
COMPLAINTS IN
THE HISTORY OF
MRS!

IT'S NOT
OKAY!

AH-HA-
HA-HA!

ALL
RIGHT!
I'VE DE-
CIDED!



...YOU
HAVE WORK
TOMORROW,
HUH? SORRY.

I'M JUST A
JOBLESS BUM
WHO DRINKS
EVERY DAY.

DON'T BE.
I HAD FUN
TONIGHT.



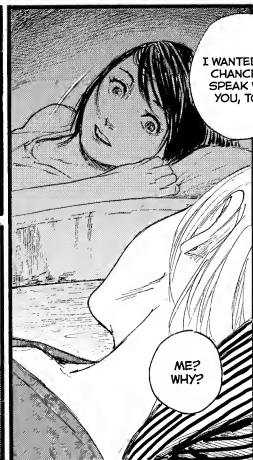
NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT
IT...



I THOUGHT,
"SHE CAN PUT
INTO WORDS
WHAT I'VE AL-
WAYS THOUGHT
IN THE BACK
OF MY HEAD."

YOU LEFT
SUCH A
FIERCE
IMPRESSION
THAT DAY.

was I
your blue
hearts?*



I WANTED THE
CHANCE TO
SPEAK WITH
YOU, TOO.



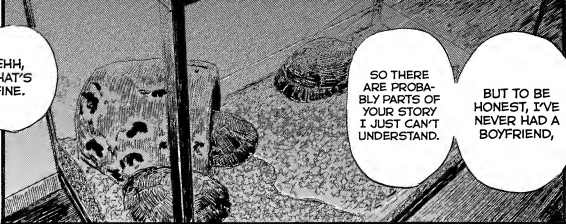
YOU MEAN
"WANT
TO SAY",
RIGHT?

"EVEN IF YOU
RUN TO THE
EDGE OF
THE PLANET,
I WILL HUNT
YOU DOWN
AND KILL
YOU!" I WANT
TO DO THAT
SOMEDAY.

OH, YEAH.
SORRY.

ME?
WHY?

* BLUE HEARTS, A PUNK BAND ACTIVE IN THE LATE EIGHTIES AND EARLY NINETIES.



EHH,
THAT'S
FINE.

SO THERE
ARE PROBABLY
PARTS OF
YOUR STORY
I JUST CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

BUT TO BE
HONEST, I'VE
NEVER HAD A
BOYFRIEND,



I THINK
AN OLD
CLASSMATE
TOLD ME THE
SAME THING
BEFORE.

I'D
RATHER
NOT...

THERE'S NO NEED
TO FORCE YOUR-
SELF TO GET A
BOYFRIEND. STAY
A VIRGIN FOR THE
REST OF YOUR LIFE,
MIZUHO-CHAN!

MEN ARE ON
THE SAME
LEVEL AS
GARBAGE.



M-R-S
J-O-V
FM-

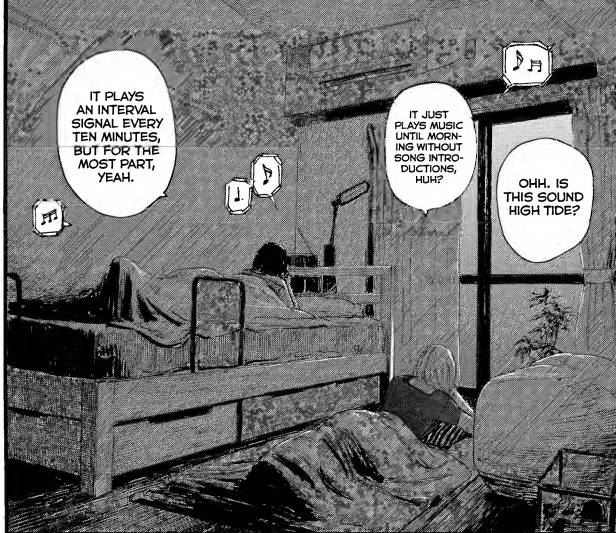


WE
SHOULD
TUNE IN!

?



OH!
THAT'S
RIGHT!



IT PLAYS
AN INTERVAL
SIGNAL EVERY
TEN MINUTES,
BUT FOR THE
MOST PART,
YEAH.

IT JUST
PLAYS MUSIC
UNTIL MORN-
ING WITHOUT
SONG INTRO-
DUCTIONS,
HUH?

OHH. IS
THIS SOUND
HIGH TIDE?

INTERVAL SIGNAL: A SOUND PLAYED AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF BROADCASTS AND ACTS AS AN IDENTIFIER FOR THE BROADCASTING STATION.



M-R-5
JOZY - FM,
Moiwayama
Radio

3:30 AM, A
TIME WHEN
EVEN RADIO
STAFF ARE
ASLEEP.

UHH. HOW
IS EVERYONE
SPENDING
THEIR MORN-
ING? MINARE
KODA HERE.

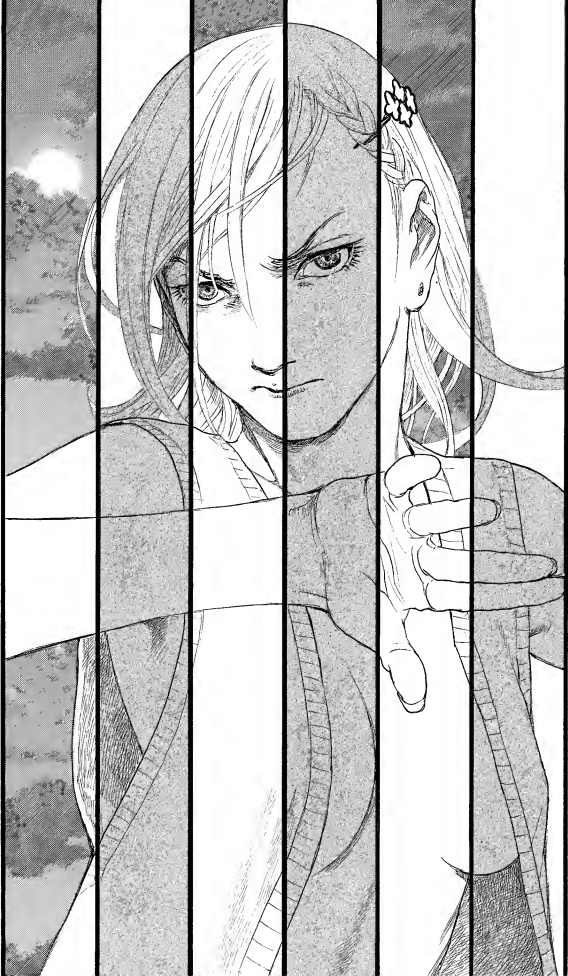


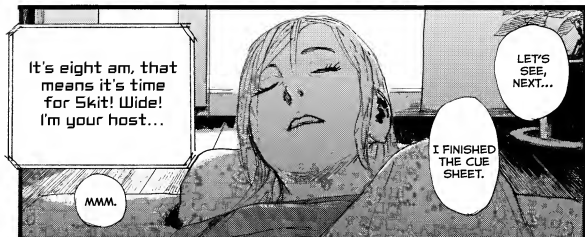
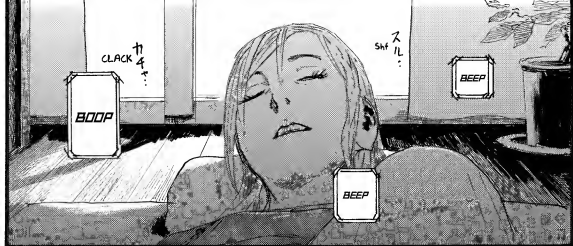
IF YOU LISTEN
TO THE RADIO
ON LOW VOLUME,
YOU CAN SLEEP
BETTER THAN
WITH NO SOUND
AT ALL.



GOOD
NIGHT.

Chapter 9 「I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.」

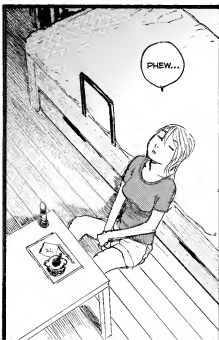


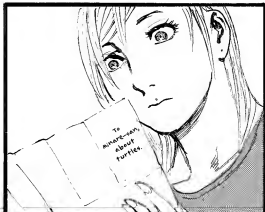
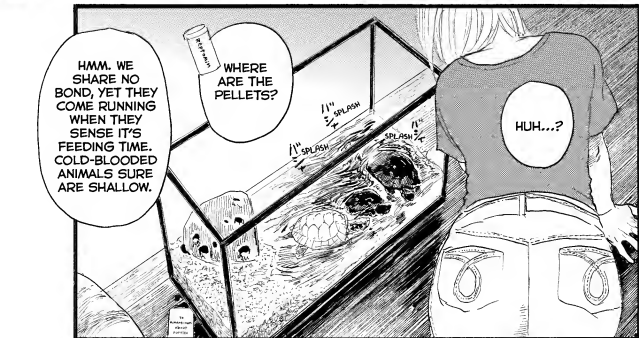
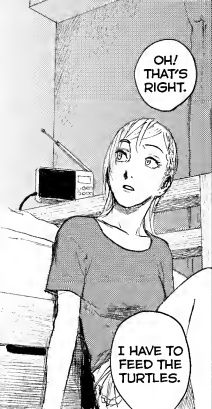






* SEICOMA: SEICO MART, A CONVENIENCE STORE CHAIN IN SAPPORO.





← You can eat the remainder of the apple.
Thanks for feeding the turtles for me!

***Please feed them as instructed below!**

- There are chicken tenders in the chill chest. They come in packs of two, but I only use one. Please cut the tender into 1 cm chunks (fingernail size) before giving it to them. It's okay to dump it all in at once!
- The one who eats the most out of the three is Hodokon. If you leave him alone he'll eat half of everything. The one who suffers the most from this is Furakan. If it looks like he isn't getting enough to eat, give her some of the dried sea slug in the fridge (on the small plate). But if you just toss it in, Hodokon will eat all of it, so use a chopstick to dangle it in front of Furakan's face, please. Okyuhon does what he wants and will eat at his own pace, so you don't have to worry about him.

Sometimes food gets stuck to the side of the acrylic tank. If the turtles try to eat it they'll bump their noses against the tank and might hurt themselves. If that happens, use chopsticks to drop the food into the water, please.

- * After the sun goes down, cover the front and top of the tank with shades (they're on the shelf in the closet).

Thanks so much!

***Let me introduce you to the family!**

Furakan

(Chinese pond turtle, male)



All black and the smallest of the three.
 Very meek.

(So the turtles can sunbathe)

Hodokon

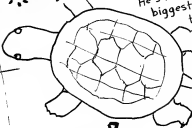
(Pond slider, male)



The biggest and most energetic.
 Big eater.

Okyuhon

(Chinese pond turtle, male)



He's the second biggest of the three and has yellow trim on his shell.

Long tail.

long with the chicken, please. Hodokon will probably eat most of it, but you don't have to worry about that. Pond sliders tend to like plant-based food more than Chinese pond turtles.

Next up,
Tortoise's
Seneca.

While their sound was widely known as Chicago electronica, with this album, they went back to their jazz roots...

SHE DOES THIS EVERY MORN-ING?

THERE'S SUCH A THING AS

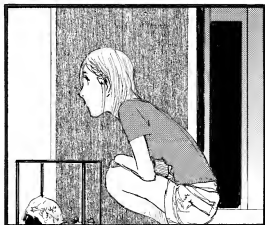
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO DILIGENT!

she probably could have fed them in the time it took to write those instructions.

C'MONG
GUYS. BREAK-
FAST TIME.

THEY HAVE
NO PROBLEM
EATING FOOD IN
WATER FILLED
WITH THEIR OWN
POOP.

TURTLES
SURE ARE
AMAZING.



SO...



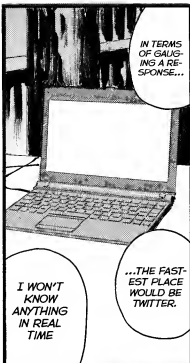
Talking
about sleep
vomiting...

she's
an ad

I GUESS
I COULD
BRING A
WRITER INTO
THE BOOTH.



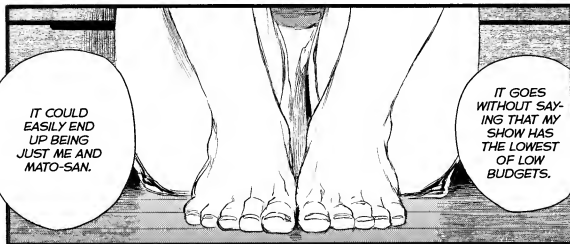
I WON'T HAVE
A CROWD TO
PLAY OFF OF.



IN TERMS
OF GAUG-
ING A RE-
SPONSE...

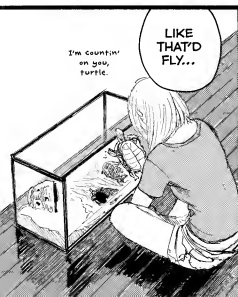
I WON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
IN REAL
TIME

...THE FAST-
EST PLACE
WOULD BE
TWITTER.



IT COULD
EASILY END
UP BEING
JUST ME AND
MATO-SAN.

IT GOES
WITHOUT SAY-
ING THAT MY
SHOW HAS
THE LOWEST
OF LOW
BUDGETS.



I'm countin'
on you,
turtle.

LIKE
THAT'D
FLY...



PRO
BONO.

Devilish

OH!

MAYBE
I'LL HAVE
NAKAHARA-
KUN SIT IN.





* REFERENCE TO A HOSAI OZAKI HAIKU.





LIFE WOULD BE EASY IF BUSINESSES LIKE THAT SUDDENLY POPPED UP LIKE AN OASIS IN THE DESERT.

IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO FIND A COMPANY TO SPONSOR ME AND HIRE ME IN ONE DAY.



plus, it's at three in the morning.

IF WE CAN FIND A SPONSOR, THAT IS.

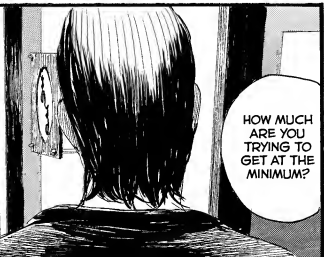
THINGS ARE MOVING THAT FAST?



YOUR OWN TALK SHOW?!

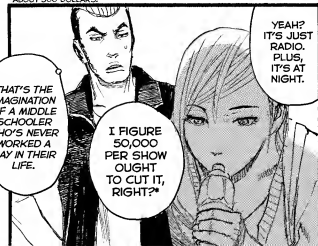


HUH?



HOW MUCH ARE YOU TRYING TO GET AT THE MINIMUM?

* ABOUT 500 DOLLARS.



THAT'S THE IMAGINATION OF A MIDDLE SCHOOLER WHO'S NEVER WORKED A DAY IN THEIR LIFE.

I FIGURE 50,000 PER SHOW OUGHT TO CUT IT, RIGHT?*

YEAH? IT'S JUST RADIO. PLUS, IT'S AT NIGHT.



I DOUBT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A COMPANY THAT CAN PAY THAT MUCH ON YOUR OWN.

I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT.



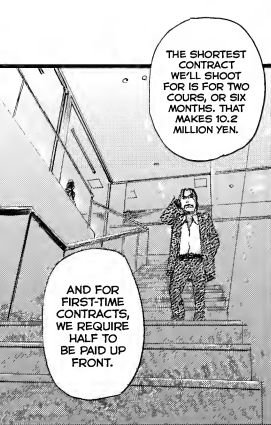
WELL...

...EVEN IF
WE TAKE A BIG
HIT, 1.7 MILLION
YEN PER MONTH
SHOULD DO IT.*

*ABOUT 17,000 DOLLARS.



This woman is
a skilled curry
waitress, ladies
and gentleman.



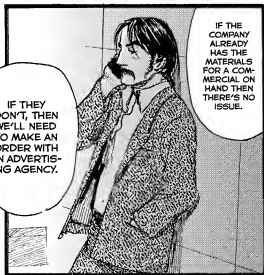
THE SHORTEST
CONTRACT
WE'LL SHOOT
FOR IS FOR TWO
COURS, OR SIX
MONTHS. THAT
MAKES 10.2
MILLION YEN.

AND FOR
FIRST-TIME
CONTRACTS,
WE REQUIRE
HALF TO
BE PAID UP
FRONT.



We're not
some local
broadcast,
y'know.

UMM. YOU
DIDN'T
MEAN TO
SAY PER
YEAR, DID
YOU?



IF THEY
DON'T, THEN
WE'LL NEED
TO MAKE AN
ORDER WITH
AN ADVERTISING
AGENCY.

IF THE
COMPANY
ALREADY
HAS THE
MATERIALS
FOR A COMMERCIAL ON
HAND THEN
THERE'S NO
ISSUE.



IF WE USE THE
SPEAKER OR
ENTERTAINERS,
THEN THEIR
PERFORMANCE
FEE COMES INTO
PLAY, TOO.

BUT WE
CAN'T DO
IT FOR
FREE.

WE DO
HAVE THE
OPTION TO
MAKE THE
COMMERCIAL
OURSELVES,

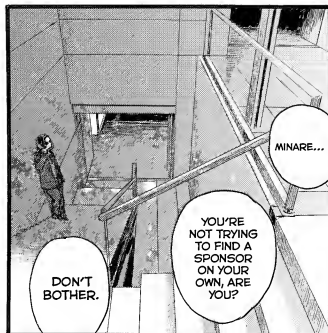


Dark clouds
forming.

As for
expenses,
our biggest
advantage
is that
you're an
everyday
person.

The real problem
isn't how much
the show costs,
but commercial
production costs
and broadcasting
fees.

The margins
we have
to pay to
production
companies
is much
smaller.



DON'T BOTHER.

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO FIND A SPONSOR ON YOUR OWN, ARE YOU?

MINARE...



AM I A SLAVE?!

I MEAN, I'LL DO IT IF I HAVE TO, BUT...

Then again, if you're willing to read the script pro bono, then we could do it for a lot cheaper.



AND ANOTHER THING. YOU KEEP SAYING WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO THE SHOW CHEAPLY SINCE I'M AN AMATEUR.

YEAH... I'VE GIVEN UP AFTER TALKING TO YOU.

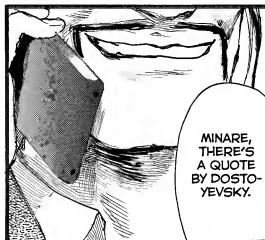
FUNNY ON FM RADIO

If you have that kinda time to spare, I'd rather you think of funny topics for the show.



...FOR A SOLO TALK SHOW DONE BY AN AMATEUR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

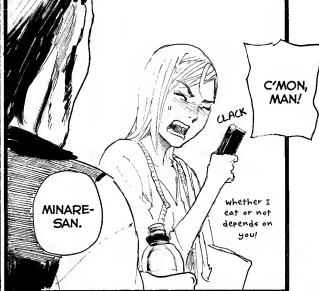
BUT DO YOU REALLY EXPECT TO FIND SOMEONE TO PAY TEN MILLION YEN...





I WANT YOU
TO COME
TO VOYAGER
WITH ME AND
APOLOGIZE
TO TAKARADA-
SAN.

BEFORE
WE GO JOB
HUNTING CAN
I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?



MINARE-
SAN.

CLACK

C'MON,
MAN!

Whether I
eat or not
depends on
you!



IT'LL
PROBABLY
BE ALL
RIGHT.

putting the
gay thing
aside...

WHY?!

HUH?!

HE VALUED
YOU AS A
WORKER.

IT'S
POINTLESS!
USELESS!
HE'S GAY!



...TO SEE
ONE OF HIS
EMPLOYEES
MAKE A SCENE
AND HAVE THE
WHOLE THING
PUT UP ON THE
INTERNET.

HE PROBABLY
JUST COULDN'T
STAND...

BUT MORE
THAN ANYTHING,
TAKARADA-SAN
WANTS TO MAKE
HIS STORE A
PLACE WHERE
PEOPLE CAN
RELAX.

regardless
if the decor
allows for
it.



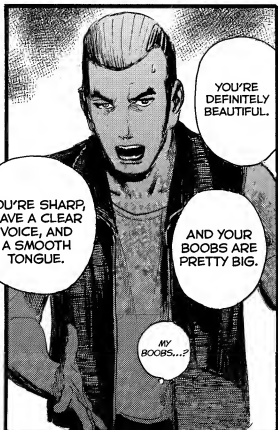
...HUH?!



MINARE-SAN,
I'LL PUT IT
BLUNTLY.

AND I TOLD
YOU BEFORE,
I'M NOT THAT
ATTACHED TO
THE CURRY
SHOP.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
USE THIS
OPPORTU-
NITY?



YOU'RE
DEFINITELY
BEAUTIFUL.

YOU'RE SHARP,
HAVE A CLEAR
VOICE, AND
A SMOOTH
TONGUE.

AND YOUR
BOOBS ARE
PRETTY BIG.

MY
BOOBS...?



SO I'M
SAYING...

...USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO CUT ALL
TIES WITH
MOIWAYAMA
RADIO.



BUT
BECAUSE
IT'S HAPPENING
TO YOU, YOU'RE
LETTING
YOURSELF
GET CARRIED
AWAY.

THIS IS DEFINITELY
SOME PLOY BY THE
STATION TO
TURN AMATEURS
LIKE YOURSELF
INTO A LAUGH-
ING STOCK!



NO MATTER
HOW YOU
THINK ABOUT
IT, EVEN LATE
NIGHT, ALL
THIS ABOUT
A TALK SHOW
SOUNDS
FISHY!

IF THIS WERE
HAPPENING
TO ANYONE
ELSE, YOU'D
SAY THE
SAME THING!

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL
JUST AN
AMATEUR!



...WHO'D
THROW
HER LIFE
AWAY ON A
RISKY JOB
OFFER JUST
BECAUSE
SHE WAS
FLATTERED
A LITTLE.

THE WOMAN
I FELL FOR
ISN'T SOME-
ONE...



...WHO PUTS
HER BLOOD,
SWEAT, AND
TEARS INTO
RUNNING THE
STORE!

I FELL
FOR THE
DILIGENT
WOMAN...
(ALBEIT
OFTEN LATE)



I'M NOT
GETTING
CARRIED
AWAY!

WHERE
DO YOU
GET
OFF?!

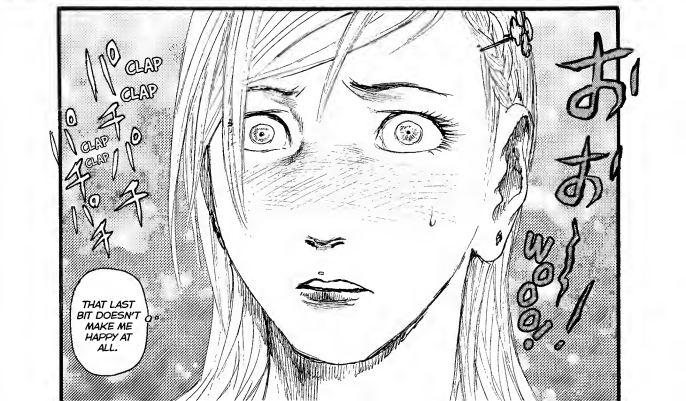
MINARE-
SAN...



...I'LL TURN
VOYAGER
INTO THE
BIGGEST
SOUP CURRY
CHAIN IN
HOKKAIDO!

IF YOU'RE
BY MY SIDE,
MINARE-
SAN...

CHAIN USURPATION DECLARATION



THAT LAST
BIT DOESN'T
MAKE ME
HAPPY AT
ALL.



And you
tell me I'm
getting
carried
away

...THERE'S
NO WAY THAT
GUY WILL
LISTEN!

IF PUSH
COMES TO
SHOVE, THEN
I'LL THREATEN
TO QUIT, TOO!



EVEN IF
THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT...



YOU'RE
HALF
RIGHT.

IS THERE
A PROBLEM
WITH THAT?



JUST WHEN YOU
THOUGHT YOUR
TURN CAME UP
BECAUSE I'M
SINGLE AGAIN...

...YOU
COULDN'T
STAND TO
WATCH ME
CHANGE
JOBS, RIGHT?



NAKAHARA-
KUN. YOU
GAVE THAT
GRAND
SPEECH,
BUT ISN'T
THIS HOW IT
REALLY IS?



BUT HE DOES HAVE A POINT.

I SHOULD PUT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT INTO THIS.



well, it's still better than nude or stark.

FROM TODAY ON, YOUR NICK-NAME IS BUFFERIN.*



NOT REALLY. I'M SURE HALF OF IT IS OUT OF KINDNESS.

* A BRAND OF OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINE THAT IS A COMBINATION OF ASPIRIN AND AN ANTACID.



IT'S WEIRD FOR HIM NOT TO BE HERE YET.

IS HE OVER AT THE BREAD WORK-SHOP?

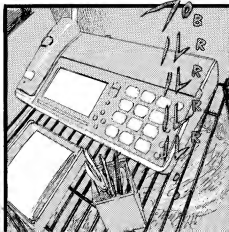
HM?

HUH? HEY, BOSS!



Rhh... Nakahara-kun. You won't believe this!

HELLO! YOU'VE REACHED VOYAGER...





YOU NEED
TO STAY
STILL!

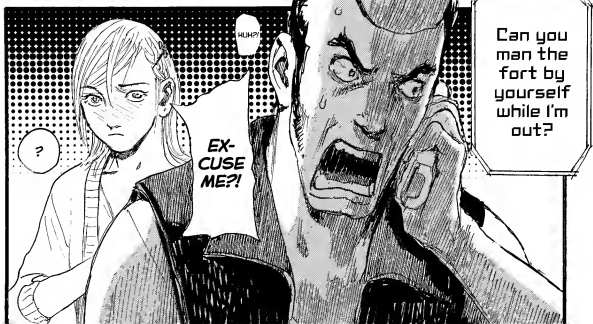
SIR,
PLEASE!

I GOT INTO
AN ACCIDENT
NEAR THE
GOVERNMENT
OFFICE IN
TOYOHIRA-KU.

NO, I DIDN'T
SEE ONE. I
WAS IN ONE!
ME!

ANYWAY...IT
SOUNDS LIKE
MY ORGANS
GOT PRETTY
MESSED UP,
SO I'LL BE IN
THE HOSPITAL
FOR A WHILE.

I'M CALLING
FROM THE
AMBULANCE.



Can you
man the
fort by
yourself
while I'm
out?

EX-
CUSE
ME?!

?

Chapter 7 「YOU WON'T GO HOME.」

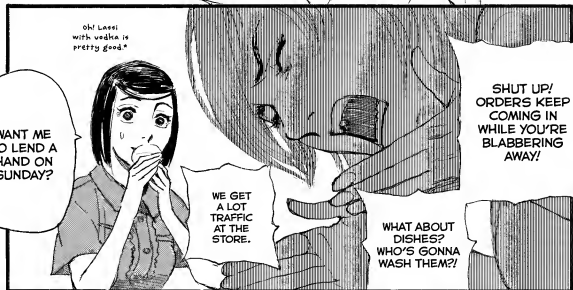






IT KINDA FEELS
LIKE WE'RE A
MARRIED COUPLE
RUNNING OUR
OWN RESTAU-
RANT, HUH?

MINARE-SAN!



oh! Lassi
with vodka is
pretty good.*

WANT ME
TO LEND A
HAND ON
SUNDAY?

WE GET
A LOT
TRAFFIC
AT THE
STORE.

SHUT UP!
ORDERS KEEP
COMING IN
WHILE YOU'RE
BLABBERING
AWAY!

WHAT ABOUT
DISHES?
WHO'S GONNA
WASH THEM?!

* haven't
tried it.



I'M
STARTING
TO FEEL
BAD FOR
THE GUY.



I MEAN
ABOUT
YOU,
MINARE-
SAN.

UH-HUH.
SO IT
SEEMS...



YOU CAN
CERTAINLY
FEEL HIS
PASSION.

IT'S NOT
ENOUGH
TO BE A
WORKA-
HOLIC.
I ONLY
HAVE TWO
HANDS.

*Hey, everyone!
Autumn is quickly approaching!*

Today's bread includes the Austrian *zopf*, a decadent braided bread with an intense buttery flavor, and *grissini*, a long stick bread from Italy with a crispy texture.

**They both get five stars on
the Happy-Bread index! ★★★★★**

This bread will make you feel like opening the front door to find a beautiful bouquet of purple flowers with five pounds of top tier lamb meat!

...What's that? The post seems brief this time?
The truth is, we're down two staff members all of a sudden! Oof. So in this whirlwind of busyness, I'd like to use this opportunity to make an emergency announcement!

**We are very much in need
of part-time help!**

Whether you're a fan of curry, want to save some money on food expenses, or just want to work with a beautiful waitress, anyone is welcome!

Please contact us through the link below!

<http://www.●●●●●●.jp>

**We will hire on a first come, first serve basis.*



**MRS Moiwayama
Radio Twelve o'clock!
Coming up next is
Soju Tenho's Kensaku
Sound Engine, with...**

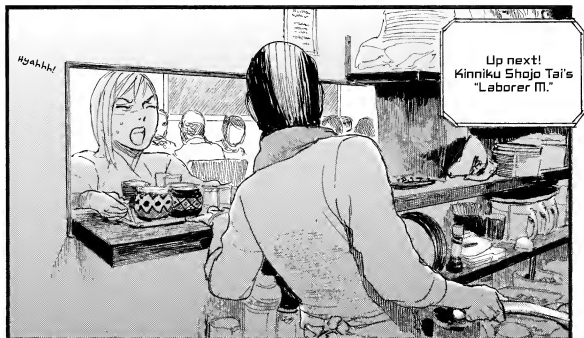
**I'LL HAVE
THE TOMATO
CURRY
WITH PORK,
LEVEL FIVE
PLEASE.**



**I'LL BE
RIGHT
WITH YOU!**

**EXCUSE ME!
WE'RE READY
TO ORDER!**







THIS IS GIVING
ME A CHANCE
TO LIVE OUT MY
DREAM.

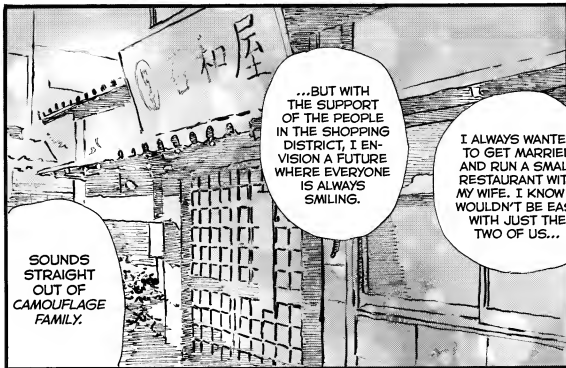


I'LL BE
AMAZED IF
YOU CAN SAY
THAT AGAIN
IN A WEEK.

...BUT ISN'T
THIS HECTIC
ENVIRONMENT
FUN?



KINDA WEIRD
TO SAY IT
NOW THAT
THE RUSH IS
OVER...



SOUNDS
STRAIGHT
OUT OF
CAMOUFLAGE
FAMILY.

...BUT WITH
THE SUPPORT
OF THE PEOPLE
IN THE SHOPPING
DISTRICT, I EN-
VISION A FUTURE
WHERE EVERYONE
IS ALWAYS
SMILING.

I ALWAYS WANTED
TO GET MARRIED
AND RUN A SMALL
RESTAURANT WITH
MY WIFE. I KNOW IT
WOULDN'T BE EASY
WITH JUST THE
TWO OF US...



MINARE-
SAN...



I TOLD YOU
THE OTHER
DAY, NAKA-
HARA-KUN!

And yester-
day you said
you'd have a
chain!

HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE!

MINARE-
SAN.

IF I
EVER
GET MY
OWN
SHOP...

DON'T
TAKE
THIS THE
WRONG WAY,
MINARE-
SAN...

UMM.

ARE YOU
GONNA
DO THAT
GESTURE
EVERY
TIME?

I WANT
TO KEEP
OUR RELA-
TIONSHIP
SMOOTH.



YOU
HAVE NO
GOALS,
RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT
STUDYING
FOR ANY
KIND OF CER-
TIFICATION.

AND YOU'RE
NOT SAVING
MONEY TO GO
TO SCHOOL
OR START A
BUSINESS.



...BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE YOU
HAVE ANYTHING
YOU'RE WORK-
ING TOWARD,
RIGHT?

GUHAH!



NOT AT
ALL!

AH...
OF
COURSE
NOT.



OH!
SORRY!

WAS
THERE
SOME-
THING?

YOU THINK
YOU KNOW ME
SO WELL?



**WHY?!
BECAUSE
YOU'VE ANGERED
ME, BUT I HAVE
NOTHING TO
SAY IN RETURN!**

**NAKAHARA!
I'M GOING TO
PUNCH YOU
NOW!**

**AND I'M
GOING TO
KEEP
PUNCHING
YOU IN
SILENCE!**

**WHOA, WHOA,
WHOA! YOU
CAN PUNCH ME
IF YOU WANT,
JUST LISTEN.**

**YOU'RE
A HARD-
WORKING,
KIND
WOMAN!**

**...I KNOW
ALL SORTS
OF GOOD
POINTS
ABOUT YOU!**

There he goes
again with the
backhanded
compliments.

**EVEN IF
YOU'RE
JUST
LIVING
DAY-BY-
DAY...**

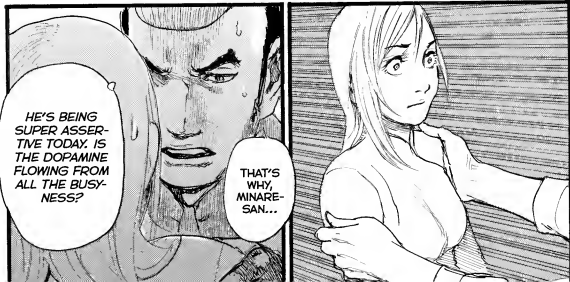
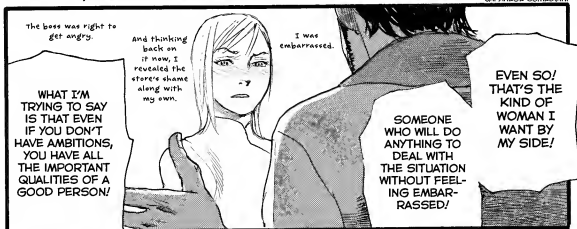
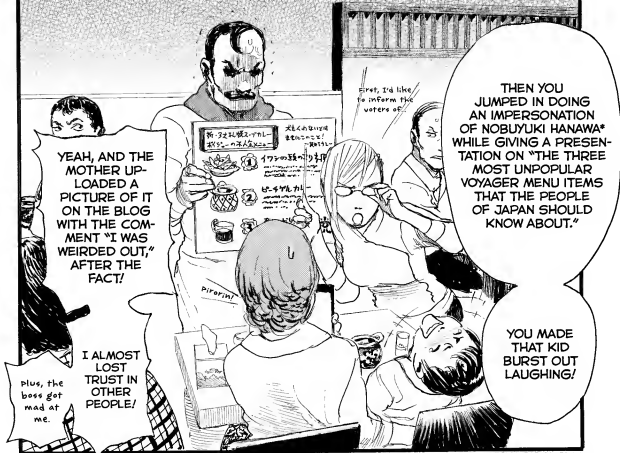
**...AND
THE KID
STARTED
BAWLING,
REMEM-
BER?**

**A MOM
LET HER
SON TRY
THE SUPER
SPICY
CURRY SHE
ORDERED
FOR HER-
SELF...**

Behold! This is
the fist that
will audibly
punch you!

**YOU
CALL THIS
KIND, YOU
MASOCH-
ISTIC
BAS-
TARD?!**

**BACK IN
SPRING...**





WE HAVE TO
OPEN SOON,
ANYWAY.

IN THAT
CASE, LET'S
DO THIS,
NAKAHARA-
KUN.

WAIT! OKAY!
I GET YOU.



IF YOU CAN
PULL THAT OFF,
THEN I PROMISE
I'LL WORK THERE
WITH YOU!

IF YOU GET
YOUR OWN
RESTAURANT
IN THE NEXT
FOUR YEARS...

BY THE
TIME I TURN
THIRTY,
THAT IS.



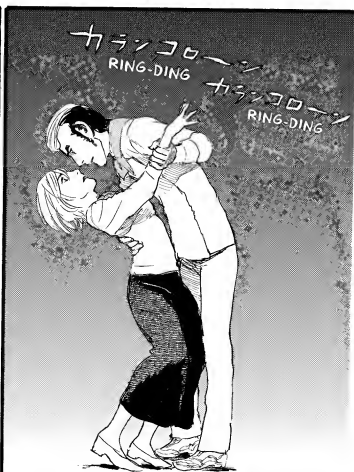
GOT
IT!

YEAH!



OKAY?!

AND I'LL
STAY
SINGLE
UNTIL I'M
THIRTY.







...WE'VE
CAUSED
A LOT OF
TROUBLE FOR
TAKARADA-
SAMA AND
THE WORKERS
HERE.

BECAUSE
OF MY
BROTHER'S
RECKLESS
DRIVING...



OH...
I'M SORRY.
MY NAME IS
MAKIE
TACHIBANA.

...WHEN HE
GOT DISTRACTED
AND HIT YOSHIKI
TAKARADA-SAMA
AND KUNIO
YANAGAWA-SAMA
WHILE THEY WERE
LOADING BOXES.

MY BROTHER
WAS ON HIS
WAY TO THE
CEMETERY IN
TOYOHIRA...



I SEE...
THANK YOU FOR
COMING.



...SO
I'VE COME
TO APOLO-
GIZE IN HIS
STEAD.

MY BROTHER,
TOORU TACHI-
BANA, IS BEING
INTERROGATED
BY POLICE AT
THE MOMENT
AND CAN'T MOVE
ABOUT FREELY
FOR NOW...



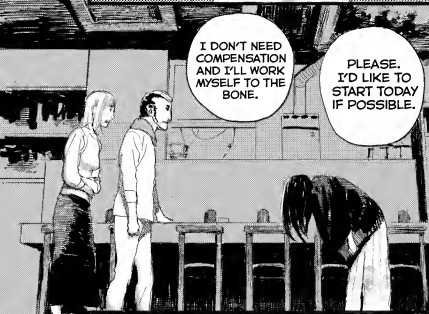
...WOULD
YOU ALLOW
ME TO HELP
OUT AT THIS
STORE?

...BUT UNTIL
TAKARADA-
SAMA AND
YANAGAWA-
SAMA RETURN
TO WORK...



AND,
UMM...

I KNOW
THIS MIGHT
SOUND
BRAZEN
OF ME
TO ASK...

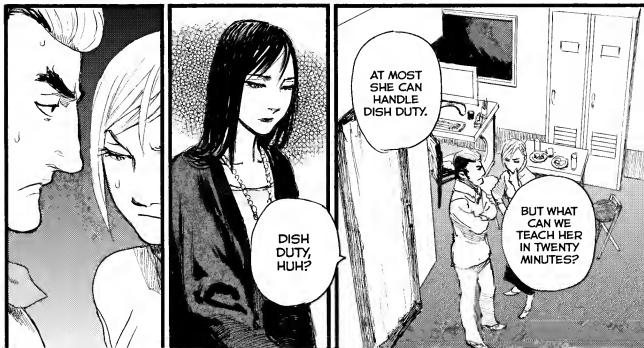


I DON'T NEED
COMPENSATION
AND I'LL WORK
MYSELF TO THE
BONE.

PLEASE.
I'D LIKE TO
START TODAY
IF POSSIBLE.



HUH?!





Tanqueray
LONDON DRY GIN



NAH,
THAT'S OKAY.
I'M GONNA
LEAVE WHEN
MIZUHO
GOES TO
WORK SO
I SHOULD
BE FINE.

MINARE-SAN,
I'M GOING
TO NAKAJIMA
HOSPITAL
TOMORROW
AT NINE. WANT
ME TO PICK
YOU UP?

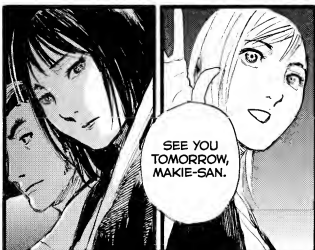
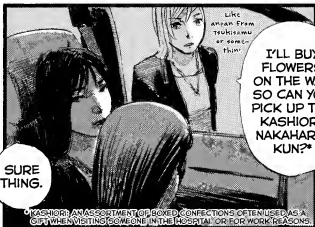
DON'T
SWEAT IT. YOU
VISITED THEM
JUST THE
OTHER DAY,
RIGHT?

UMM. MAYBE
I SHOULD
GO, TOO.



WE KINDA
ENDED UP
WORKING HER
PRETTY HARD
WITHOUT REAL-
IZING IT.

SURE
THING.





HUH...?



AH!



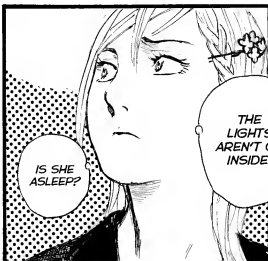
THE
KEYS
MISSING.

TO AVOID
BURGLARIES,
AVOID USING
PLACES LIKE
THIS TO HIDE
HOUSE
KEYS.



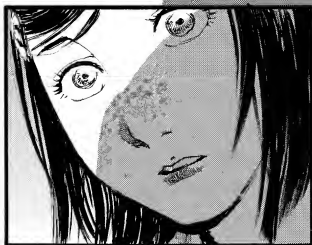
I ACCI-
DENTALLY
TOOK IT
WITH ME!

OH,
CRAP!



IS SHE
ASLEEP?

THE
LIGHTS
AREN'T ON
INSIDE.

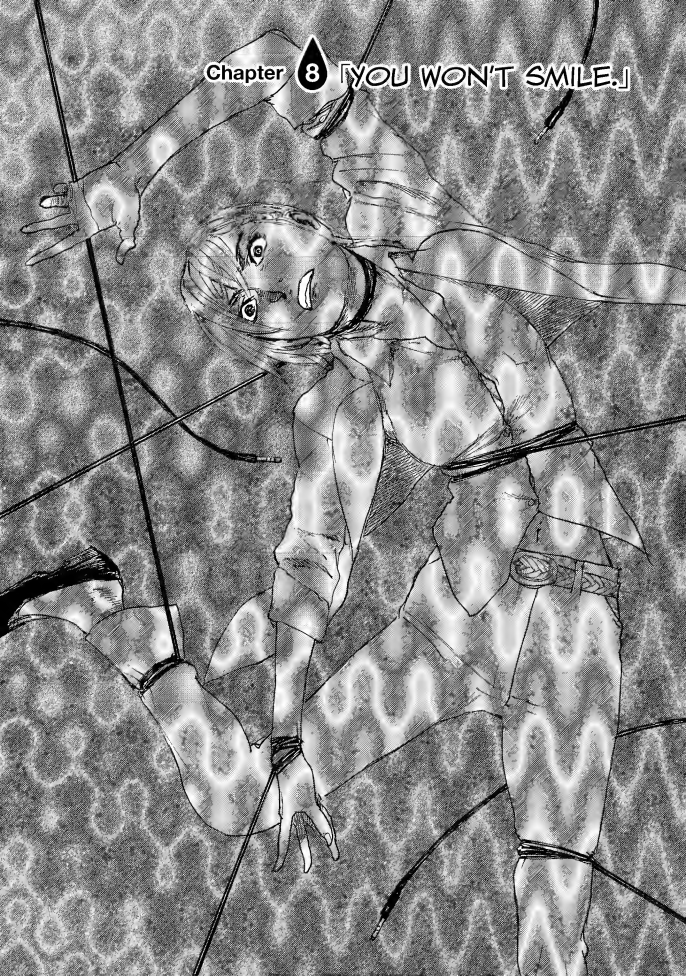




Chapter

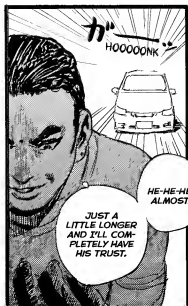
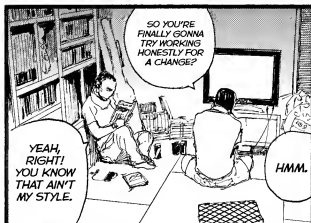
8

「YOU WON'T SMILE.」





A day in the life of Kunio Yanagawa (25), Tokyo U dropout & part-timer.





THEY BOTH
CAME IN THE
DAY AFTER THE
ACCIDENT.

AHH... TOORU
TACHIBANA'S
SISTER?

HOW
YOU
FEEL-
ING?

...

BUT I'VE KNOWN
THE MAN FOR
YEARS AND WANTED
TO SEE HOW HE
WAS DOING, SO I
TOLD HIM I'D PICK
THEM UP MYSELF.
MY LUCK RAN OUT
AT THAT MOMENT.

THE OWNER
OF THE
SRI LANKA
IMPORT
STORE I
FREQUENT
HAS A BAD
HIP, YOU
SEE.

HE TOLD ME
TO SEND A
PART TIMER
AROUND TO
PICK UP THE
SPICES.

TAKARADA-
SAN...

I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
HAD SUCH
A KIND
HEART...

TRY
NOT TO
BLAME
THEM,
WILL
YOU?

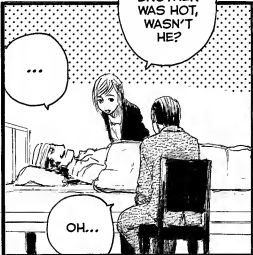
I FELT BAD FOR
THEM. I HAVEN'T
TOLD THEM, BUT
I DON'T PLAN
TO ASK FOR
COMPENSATION
OUTSIDE OF
THE MEDICAL
FEES.

THE TACHIBANA
SIBLINGS WERE ON
THEIR WAY TO VISIT
THEIR PARENTS'
GRAVE. APPARENT-
LY THEIR PARENTS
DIED WHEN THEY
WERE BOTH
YOUNG.



AT LEAST
WE KNOW A
LITTLE ABOUT
TACHIBANA-
SAN'S BACK-
GROUND
NOW.

WELL,
THAT'S A
START.



THE
BROTHER
WAS HOT,
WASN'T
HE?

...

OH...



MMM. I GET
THE FEELING
IT WASN'T LIKE
THAT. I ENDED
DROPPING HER
OFF AT HOME,
OF COURSE.

BUT, "I
DON'T
WANT TO
GO HOME
TONIGHT"?

EVEN IF SHE
FELL FOR YOU AT
FIRST SIGHT, I
DIDN'T THINK SHE
WAS THE KIND OF
GIRL WHO'D BUST
OUT THE HEAVY
ARTILLERY ON
THE FIRST DAY.



THANKS.
LET ME
PAY YOU
BACK.

HERE.

DON'T
SWEAT IT.



BUT SHE
WAS ACTING
KINDA
STRANGE.



...



WHAT'S UP?

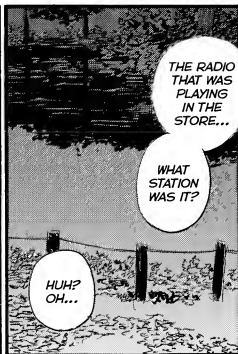
UMM...



I HAVEN'T LISTENED TO THE RADIO OUTSIDE OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY'S STATION IN A LONG TIME, SO IT WAS REALLY NICE TO LISTEN AGAIN.



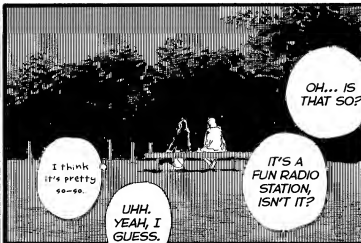
MRS. YOU CAN HEAR THE STATION JINGLE PLAY FROM TIME TO TIME.



THE RADIO THAT WAS PLAYING IN THE STORE...

WHAT STATION WAS IT?

HUH?
OH...



OH... IS THAT SO?

I think it's pretty
90-90.

UHH.
YEAH, I GUESS.

IT'S A FUN RADIO STATION, ISN'T IT?



A motel?

I SAID
I JUST
TOOK
HER
HOME!

YOU DIDN'T
TAKE HER TO
A MOTEL OR
ANYTHING? I
WON'T TELL
ANYONE.

That's
what I'm
most curious
about.



THAT'S
IT?

THAT'S
IT.



GOOD
MORNING.

MORNIN'.



YES.

I FELT
THAT I HAD
A LOT OF
SPARE TIME
YESTER-
DAY JUST
DOING THE
DISHES.

YOU WANT
TO DO MORE
AROUND THE
STORE?



UMM.
NAKA-
HARA-
SAN...

YEAH?



WE'RE NOT
IN ANY POSI-
TION TO ACT
RESERVED,
ACTING
MANAGER!



I DUNNO.
WE'RE NOT
PAYING YOU,
AFTER ALL.





WOULD YOU
LIKE THAT
AFTER YOUR
MEAL?

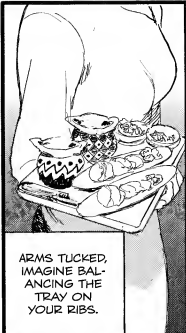
AND I'D LIKE
A CUP OF HOT
CHAI, PLEASE.

...KEEP
YOUR
HIPS
TIGHT
AND
BEND
AT THE
KNEES.

WHEN
SERVING
LOW
TABLES...



WHEN
WALKING,
IT'S EASIER
TO BALANCE
IF YOU LOOK
AHEAD, NOT
AT THE
TRAY.



ARMS TUCKED,
IMAGINE BAL-
ANCING THE
TRAY ON
YOUR RIBS.



VOYAGER

THANKS
FOR COM-
ING IN!

MINARE-
SAN!
THERE'S
NO POINT
IF YOU
STOP
WORKING!

*Though she
wants to
smile more.*

NOT BAD.
NOT BAD
AT ALL.

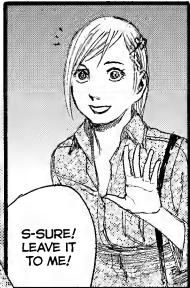
THIS MUST
BE THE RE-
SULT OF MY
TRAINING.

OH, MY!
OH-HO-
HO-HO!

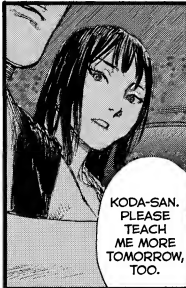


YEAH.
I TOLD
MIZUHO-CHAN
I'D COOK
TONIGHT.
SORRY.

MINARE-
SAN, ARE
YOU HAVING
DINNER
AT HOME
AGAIN?



S-SURE!
LEAVE IT
TO ME!



KODA-SAN.
PLEASE
TEACH
ME MORE
TOMORROW,
TOO.

...BUT I'M
GLAD SHE'S
A NORMAL
GIRL.

SHE'S A
LITTLE
GLOOMY...



VRRRR
KODOKO.

SOUNDS
MYSTERI-
OUS.

I TRIED
MAKING A
PIZZA WITH
LOTUS ROOT
AS A BASE.

OOO!
SOME-
THING
SMELLS
GOOD.

HONESTLY, I
WISH WE COULD
REPLACE THE
OWNER WITH
HER FOREVER.

REALLY?

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU GOT A
GOOD PERSON
TO HELP OUT.

I'M
REALLY
LOOKING
FOR-
WARD TO
HAVING
YOU ON
BOARD!

DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT MRS.
EITHER,
MINARE-
SAN.

HMM?

IT'S GREAT
THAT THINGS
ARE WORKING
OUT WITH
VOYAGER,
BUT...



I'll keep your
life afloat until
I get out of
here.

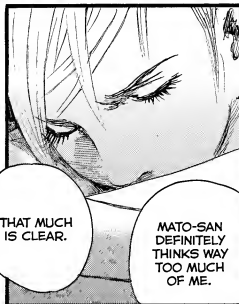
HE'S
KICKING
ME OUT,
TOO.

Is that really
what some-
one in a pinch
should say?

TACHIBANA-
SAN ISN'T
THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
GONNA HAVE
TO QUIT ONCE
THE OWNER
COMES BACK.



YEAHHHH....



THAT MUCH
IS CLEAR.

MATO-SAN
DEFINITELY
THINKS WAY
TOO MUCH
OF ME.



WELL, LATELY
I'VE STARTED
LISTENING TO
CHISHIRO-SAN'S
TALK AND STUFF
MORE ATTENTIVE-
LY THAN BEFORE
AND I CAME TO A
CONCLUSION.

Y'KNOW
HOW I KEPT
SAYING
THERE'S NO
WAY I COULD
BE ON THE
RADIO?



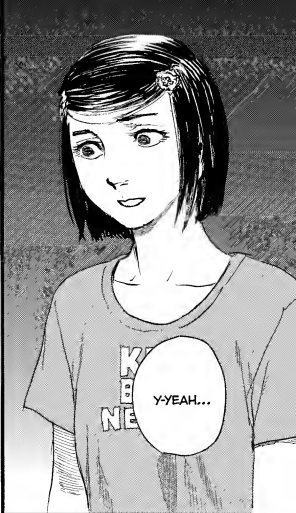
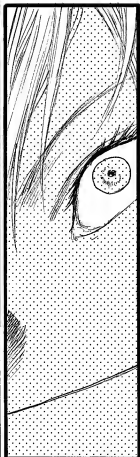
YOU SHOULD
KNOW HOW SKILLED
CHISHIRO-SAN IS
SINCE YOU WORK
THERE, RIGHT?
SHE'S LIKE A JACK
OF ALL TRADES.

OH, STOP.
HAVE CONFI-
DENCE IN
YOURSELF.



...I'M ROOTING
FOR YOU,
MINARE-SAN.

AT ANY
RATE...



Y-YEAH...



I said I wanted
Agatakan

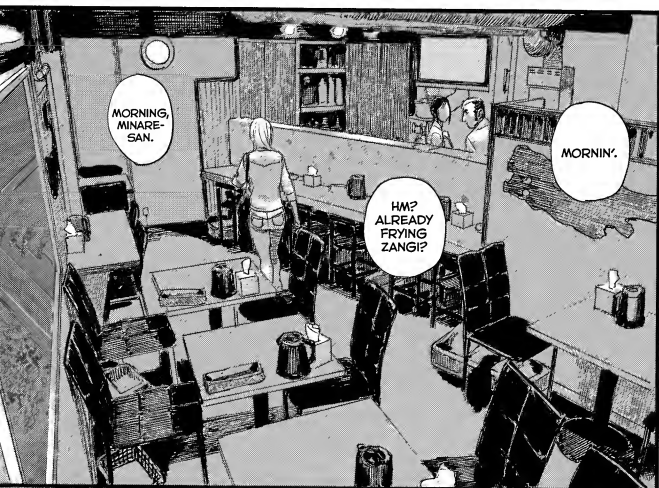
I WONDER
IF SHE GETS
BULLIED AT
THE STUDIO.

* A BRAND OF GREEN TEA.



IT SEEMED
LIKE SHE
HESITATED
TO SAY
SOMETHING.

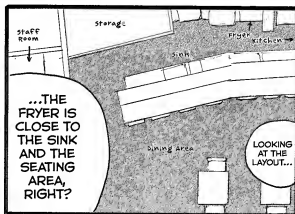
THAT
WAS
WEIRD.



MORNING,
MINARE-
SAN.

MORNIN'.

HM?
ALREADY
FRYING
ZANGI?

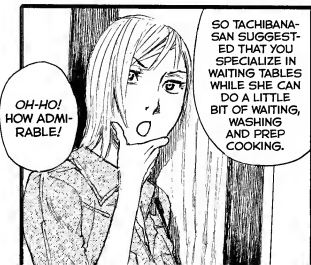


...THE
FRYER IS
CLOSE TO
THE SINK
AND THE
SEATING
AREA,
RIGHT?

LOOKING
AT THE
LAYOUT...



I'M TEACHING
TACHIBANA-
SAN HOW
TO USE THE
FRYER.



OH-HO!
HOW ADMI-
RABLE!

SO TACHIBANA-
SAN SUGGES-
TED THAT YOU
SPECIALIZE IN
WAITING TABLES
WHILE SHE CAN
DO A LITTLE
BIT OF WAITING,
WASHING
AND PREP
COOKING.



YOU'RE
GIVING
ME FREE
MEALS FOR
WORKING
HERE, TOO,
AFTER ALL.

NO...
I WANT TO.

BUT LIKE I
SAID BEFORE,
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO PUSH YOUR-
SELF THAT HARD
SINCE YOU'RE
WORKING
FOR FREE.



I
KNOW.

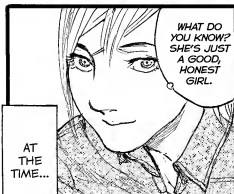
GIVE
HER A
GRACIOUS
TIP WHEN
SHE
LEAVES.



...BUT I'M
HAVING
A LOT
OF FUN
WORKING
HERE.



AND...



WHAT DO
YOU KNOW?
SHE'S JUST
A GOOD,
HONEST
GIRL.

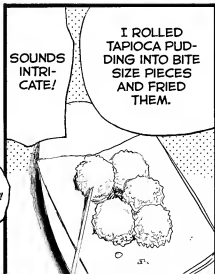
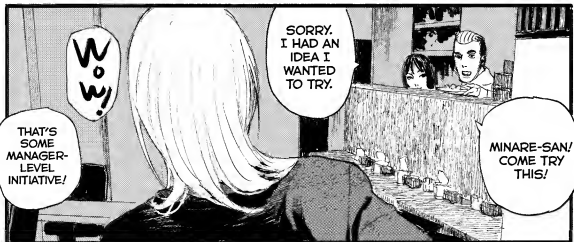
AT
THE
TIME...

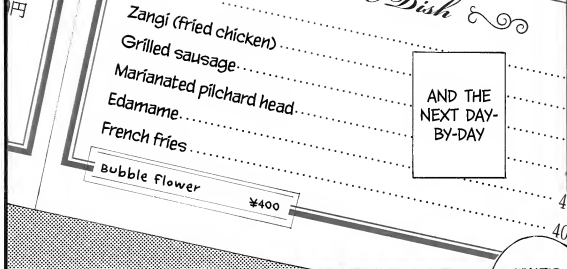
EVEN AFTER
I GO HOME,
I END UP
THINKING
ABOUT THIS
STORE AND
WHAT ELSE I
CAN DO TO
HELP.

...I KNOW
THIS MIGHT BE
SHAMELESS
OF ME TO SAY
SINCE I'M
HERE TO APO-
LOGIZE FOR MY
BROTHER'S TRANSGRES-
SION...



...MY
HEART
WAS STILL
COM-
PLETELY
AT PEACE.





1 Keep it up!

Tachibana-san's service is very polite and welcoming. I'm rooting for you! (^-^)

MACHIA-AMI (REPLY)

2 I guess...

Tachibana-san is VOYAGER's more ladylike waitress? (pardon me)
The blog was easy to read and enjoyable.

Now there won't be any problem if Koda-san has to take time off.

CRIMSON PORK CUTLET (REPLY)

3 I've been waiting for this!

IIIIIIII LOOOOOVE TACHIBANA-SAN!

MIKA-DNA (REPLY)

4 Tachibana-san

I'm glad to see another waitress was hired.

I was worried VOYAGER was going to close for a while.

Tachibana-san's service is still a bit stiff, but she's very pretty and I hope she'll become another local favorite.

REISHIN (REPLY)

5 No Subject

Are you only a temporary worker?
I wish you'd work there all the time.
I fell in love at first sight.

Good morning!

It's nice to meet everyone.
I'm *Tachibana*, a part-timer
at VOYAGER.

Koda-san seems to be running late this morning, so while I'm inexperienced, I'll be updating the blog this morning.

Forgive me if it isn't written like usual. m(_ _)m

The *bread* of the day are the San Francisco creation *soughdough*, and the Italian *Rosetta*.
Sour breads that use flour characteristic to the San Francisco region go surprisingly well with curry!

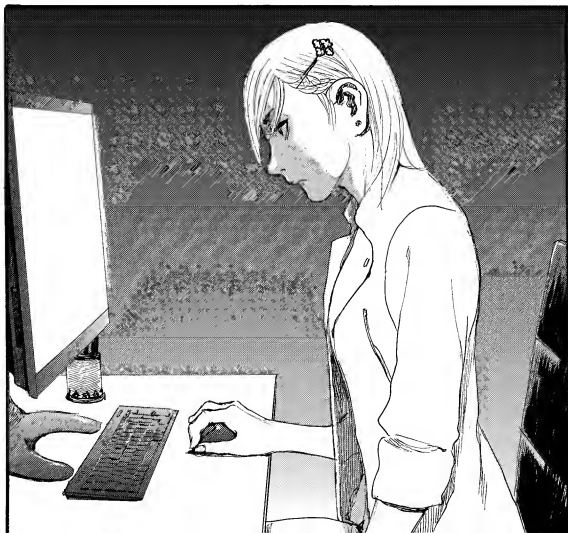
Happy-Bread Rating: ★★

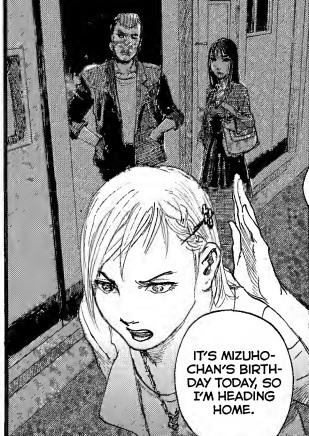
Like coming home too late to catch the show you were looking forward to, only to find out your mother recorded it for you.

Rosetta, as the name implies, is made to give the impression of a rose. The inside is hollow, so it might be fun to try pouring curry into the bread and eating that way.

Happy-Bread Rating: ★★★★★

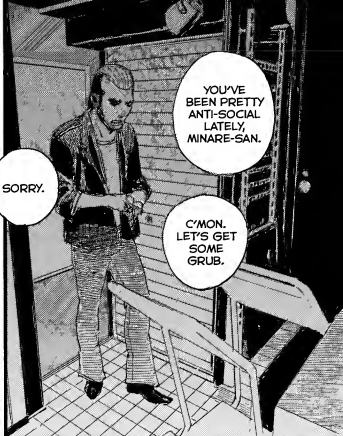
Like when the movie adaptation of your favorite novel turns out to be an unexpected gem.





IT'S MIZUHO-
CHAN'S BIRTH-
DAY TODAY, SO
I'M HEADING
HOME.

SORRY.



YOU'VE
BEEN PRETTY
ANTI-SOCIAL
LATELY,
MINARE-SAN.

C'MON.
LET'S GET
SOME
GRUB.



SHIT.
SHIT.

I LEFT THE
CAKE I
BOUGHT
SITTING IN
THE FRIDGE
AT WORK.



THEY'RE
STILL
HERE?





WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
WHY?

WHY ARE YOU
LYING TO YOUR
FAMILY ABOUT
STAYING IN THE
VOYAGER STAFF
ROOM?

WHY
DID YOU
CALL MY
HOUSE?



YOU HAVE A
CHANGE OF
CLOTHES
IN THERE,
RIGHT?

YOU DON'T
NEED A BAG
THAT BIG JUST
TO COME TO
WORK HERE
EVERY DAY.

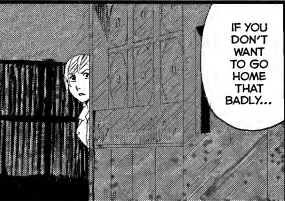
DID YOU
THINK I
WOULDN'T
NOTICE?



Is that right?



YOU
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
HOW I
FEEL...



IF YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO GO
HOME
THAT
BADLY...

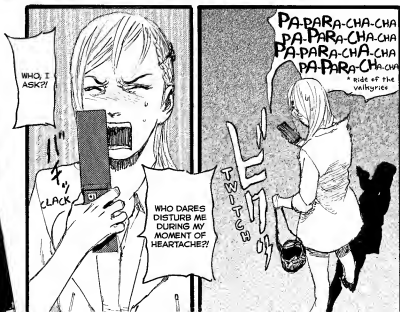
I DON'T
HAVE A
BOY-
FRIEND.



BUT
IF YOU'RE
GONNA USE
THE STORE AS
A COVER-UP,
YOU SHOULD
LET US KNOW
FIRST.

YOU'RE
FREE TO
STAY AT
YOUR BOY-
FRIEND'S
PLACE.







THE TITLE
IS "WAVE,
LISTEN TO ME"
AND WILL RUN
FOR TWENTY
MINUTES.

YOUR SHOW
BEGINS
TONIGHT
AT 3:30.



MINARE.

SORRY FOR
THE WAIT.
EVERYTHING
IS IN ORDER.



Get over to
MRS pronto.
We're gonna
have a meeting
and rehearsal.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2.



PREVIEW

ARE YOU
THE ICHIRO
OZAWA OF
THE LOVE
WORLD
OR SOME-
THING?!

PEOPLE
CAN'T JUST
RESET THEIR
FEELINGS
LIKE NOTHING
HAPPENED!

RESET?!
RESET,
MY ASS!

AFTERWORD

Hello everyone. I hope you enjoyed volume one of *Wave, Listen to Me*. There are times when even I, the writer, question just what kind of manga this is, so I can only imagine how you the readers feel. My editor told me, "Let's write a story about love and radio," but by the end of volume one, putting the radio aspect aside, I was shocked to realize the romance component made up maybe 1% of the whole book. It's the skim milk of romance manga. I plan to try to remedy that from volume two onward. The other important concept we had in mind was, "This time, let's make a manga where no one dies." I think I'll be able to protect that idea. I'm getting older, so I feel it's about time I tune it down on the torture porn and parody stories and this manga is the result of that compulsion. I went to Hokkaido twice in order to do research for this manga. On TV in Tokyo I saw reports saying, "Tremendous snowfall hits the Kanto area for the first time in a decade! Cities see 20 cm of snow!", and people were freaking out about it, but while I was taking a taxi in Asahikawa, the driver casually said, "I snowed a bit last night. We got about 20 cm." At that moment, as the representative for Tokyo, I apologized to the people of Hokkaido in my heart. Tokyo's "In a decade" is Hokkaido's "It snowed a bit yesterday." My yearly earnings are their monthly earnings, or Gates's daily. That's what it felt like hearing that sort of thing. Oh, when this manga was serialized in a magazine, I shortened Seico Mart as "Seico" and had readers writing in saying, "it's actually Seicoma," so I went back and corrected it. Well, then. I hope to see you all again in volume two. **Hiroaki Samura**

Wave, Listen to Me! 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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